

KERRY GETS AN EARFUL

MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

ZAATARI, Jordan (AP) — Angry Syrian refugees confronted U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Thursday with demands for the United States and the international community to do more to help opponents of President Bashar Assad's regime, venting frustration at perceived inaction on their behalf.



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry speaks on the phone after visiting the Zaatari Syrian refugee camp in Mafraq, Jordan, Thursday, July 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Mandel Ngan)

Visiting the sprawling Zaatari refugee camp in northern Jordan near the Syrian border, Kerry met six representatives of its 115,000-strong population, all of whom appealed to him for the U.S. and its allies to create no-fly zones and set up safe zones inside Syria to prevent the Assad regime from inflicting additional destruction. The United Nations says the conflict has killed more than 93,000 people and become the world's worst humanitarian crisis since the 1994 Rwandan genocide. "We are begging you for a no-fly zone," Jamal al-Hariri, one of the refugees, told reporters after the meeting. Kerry listened grimly to the complaints for 40 minutes and promised to relay the refugees' concerns to Washington and other capitals.

Continued on page 2

NOTOWN



Detroit becomes largest US city to go bankrupt

In this July 17, 2013, aerial photo is the city of Detroit. On Thursday, July 18, 2013, Detroit became the largest city in U.S. history to file for bankruptcy when State-appointed emergency manager Kevyn Orr asked a federal judge for municipal bankruptcy protection. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

MONICA DAVEY
MARY WILLIAMS WALSH
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DETROIT - Detroit, the cradle of America's automobile industry and once the nation's fourth-most-populous city, has filed for bankruptcy, an official said Thursday, the largest U.S. city ever to take such a course. The decision to turn to the federal courts, which required approval from both the emergency manager assigned to oversee the troubled city and from Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, is also the largest municipal bankruptcy filing in U.S. his-

tory in terms of debt. Not everyone agrees how much Detroit owes, but Kevyn D. Orr, the emergency manager who was appointed by Snyder to resolve the city's financial problems, has said the debt is likely to be \$18 billion and perhaps as much as \$20 billion. For Detroit, the filing comes as a painful reminder of a city's rise and fall. Founded more than 300 years ago, the city expanded at a stunning rate in the first half of the 20th century with the arrival of the automobile industry, and then shrank away in recent de-

cades at a similarly remarkable pace. A city of 1.8 million in 1950, it is now home to 700,000 people, as well as to tens of thousands of abandoned buildings, vacant lots and unlit streets. From here, there is no road map for Detroit's recovery, not least of all because municipal bankruptcies are rare. Some bankruptcy experts and city leaders bemoaned the likely fallout from the filing, including the stigma it would carry. They anticipate further benefit cuts for city workers and retirees, more reductions in services for residents, and a detrimental effect on fu-

ture borrowing. But others, including some Detroit business leaders who have seen a rise in private investment downtown despite the city's larger struggles, said bankruptcy seemed the only choice left - and one that might finally lead to a desperately needed overhaul of city services and a plan to pay off some reduced version of the overwhelming debts. In short, a new start. The decision to go to court signaled a breakdown after weeks of tense negotiations.

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Angry Syrian refugees confront Kerry

Continued from Front

But, he also noted serious complications in meeting the demands and reminded them that the U.S. is their largest single benefactor. The U.S. has provided nearly \$815 million in humanitarian aid to Syrians through the United Nations. Of that, \$147 million has been directed to relief agencies working in Jordan, which is home to about 600,000 displaced Syrians. His words, however, did not appear to assuage the six refugees — four women and a man from Daara, the Syrian city closest to the Zaatari camp, and one from Homs, which has been under increasing siege by Assad's military and Iranian-backed fighters for weeks. "Mr. Secretary, if the situation remains unchanged until the end of Ramadan this camp will become empty," said one of the women from Daara, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal against her or her family.

its eyes closed as long as it wants. We will return to Syria and we will remember everything," said one of the male refugees, who also asked not to be named for fear of reprisal. In Washington, the chairman of the military's Joint Chiefs of Staff told a Senate committee the Obama administration is deliberating whether to use military power in Syria. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, appearing at his confirmation hearing for another term, said he has provided President Barack Obama with options for the use of force in Syria. Dempsey used the term "kinetic strikes," and added that the "issue is under deliberation inside of our agencies of government." But he did not provide additional details, saying the decision on whether to engage militarily is one for U.S. elected officials to make. Kerry had been warned of a possible hostile reception at the camp, where refugees frustrated at their living conditions and de-

I've just met put a real face on the level of the humanitarian crisis," Kerry told reporters after meeting the refugees. "Coming here today puts a very real, human face and a searing, unforgettable passion and urgency to our needs to try to address it on an international scope." Kerry spent his time in Zaatari at the camp's administrative base, which is separated by a fence from the tens of thousands of prefabricated aluminum trailers in which the refugees live. He did not tour the dusty living quarters. In his conversation with the refugees, Kerry attempted without apparent success to explain the U.S. position. "A lot of different options are under consideration," he said after being repeatedly pressed for a no-fly zone. "I wish it was very simple. As you know, we've been fighting two wars for 12 years. We are trying to help in various ways, including helping Syrian opposition fighters have



Visiting the Zaatari refugee camp on Thursday, July 18, 2013, angry Syrian refugees urged U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to do more to help opponents of President Bashar Assad's government, venting frustration at perceived inaction on their behalf.

(AP Photo/Mandel Ngan)

"We will return to Syria and we will fight with knives." "You as the U.S. government look to Israel with respect," she said. "Cannot you do the same with the children of Syria?" "The international community can decide to keep

teriorating conditions in their homeland have in the past attacked U.N. staff and other aid workers, but chose to go anyway to see the situation first-hand, according to U.S. officials. "The stories that I've just heard and the people that

weapons. We are doing new things. There is consideration of buffer zones and other things but it is not as simple as it sounds." "You are not abandoned," he insisted. "We are very aware of how terrible conditions are inside Syria. □



This image made from video broadcast on Egyptian state television show's Egypt's interim President Adly Mansour making his first address to the nation since taking his post, in Cairo, Egypt, Thursday, July 18, 2013. Egypt's interim leader vowed to protect the country from those who push for chaos and violence. (AP Photo/Egyptian State Television)

Egypt's interim president vows to protect country

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's interim president pledged Thursday to protect his country against those who seek chaos and violence in the aftermath of a popularly backed military coup, promising that justice and reconciliation will be for all. President Adly Mansour gave his first address to the nation ahead of planned protests Friday by ousted President Mohammed Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood. Egypt's military, already worried by post-coup violence that has killed more than 60 people, issued a stern warning about causing unrest during the scheduled protests by both the Brotherhood and Morsi opponents.

In his eight-minute, pre-recorded message broadcast on state television, Mansour said Egypt is going through a "decisive period" in its history where some want to drag the country toward the "unknown" and cause chaos. "They want this period to be an introduction to violence and blood, and we want it to establish for the concept of protecting lives and human rights," Mansour said. He did not name those who he said "are pushing the nation toward the abyss thinking they are doing good" — but clearly was referring to pro-Morsi protesters. He said those who protested

against Morsi starting June 30 are "the genuine owners of legitimacy."

Mansour said his government is committed to realizing security and stability and will not be "scared or terrorized." He vowed not to be "lenient with those who kill the innocents."

"We will go through the battle for security to the end. We will preserve the revolution," he said. "History will not turn around."

Mansour said justice and reconciliation will be "for all, without exclusion or exception," suggesting that the process will include Islamists and former regime officials. A senior Brotherhood official and former lawmaker, Saad Emara, told The Associated Press after the speech that his group doesn't recognize Mansour as the country's leader. Emara called Mansour merely a representative of Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, the nation's army chief. Mansour's speech is a sign that he and the interim administration are nervous of any opposition on the street, Emara said.

"There is a contradiction in his speech between the threats and the call for reconciliation," Emara said. "They want to turn this page."

A massive rally is planned for Friday by supporters of Morsi, overthrown two weeks ago in a military coup following massive protests against him. □

Moody's upgrades its outlook for US government debt

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP)

Moody's Investors Service upgraded the outlook for U.S. government debt to "stable" from "negative" and affirmed the United States' blue chip Aaa rating. The rating agency cited a surprising drop in the federal deficit — the difference between what the government collects in taxes and what it spends. The U.S. government is on track to report its lowest annual deficit in five years.

Through the first eight months of the budget year, the deficit has totaled \$509.8 billion, according to the Treasury Department. That's nearly \$400 billion lower than the same period last year.

The Congressional Budget Office forecasts the annual deficit will be \$670 billion when the budget year ends on Sept. 30. That would be well below last year's deficit of \$1.09 trillion and the lowest since President Barack Obama took office. It would still be the fifth-largest deficit in U.S. history.

The deficit hit a peak 10.1 percent of gross domestic product — the broadest measure of the U.S. economy — in the depths of the Great Recession in 2009. CBO expects the deficit to fall to 3.4 percent of GDP in 2014 and 2.1 percent in 2015. Moody's had lowered the outlook to "negative" two years ago. But it never went as far as rival Standard & Poor's, which stripped the U.S. of its top credit rating in 2011.

S&P last month upgraded its outlook for long-term U.S. government debt but kept its rating at AA+, a notch below its top grade.

A stronger credit outlook and rating should allow governments to borrow at lower interest rates by signaling that their bonds are less risky. Weaker credit ratings should force them to pay higher rates. But investors largely ignored S&P's downgrade in 2011. Stocks fell briefly and then rebounded. Yields on Treasuries later fell to record lows. An improving economy and tax hikes and spending cuts that took effect this year have narrowed the government's budget gap. □

McCain to block new term for Gen. Dempsey

THOM SHANKER
JEREMY W. PETERS

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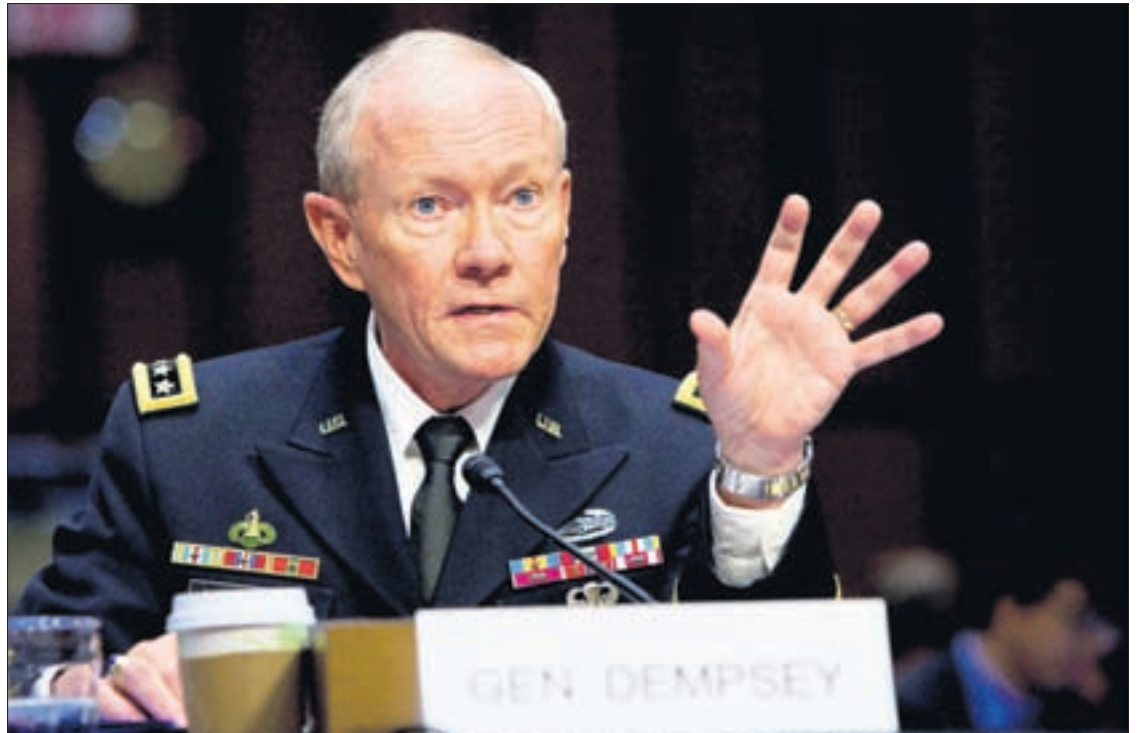
WASHINGTON — Sen. John McCain said Thursday that he intended to block President Barack Obama's nomination of Gen. Martin E. Dempsey to another two-year term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. McCain, R-Ariz., made his announcement after he and the general had a testy exchange over whether the Obama administration was doing enough to assist the Syrian rebels.

"I'm actually going to put a hold on Gen. Dempsey until Gen. Dempsey responds to legitimate questions," McCain said just two days after he helped negotiate a deal to ease the Senate confirmation process for Obama's nominees. Asked whether he would place the hold only after the Armed Services Committee forwarded the nomination to a vote by the full Senate, McCain responded tersely, "Before, after and during." "I want to see him answer the question," he added. A vote by 60 senators can overcome a hold. The confirmation battle grew out of a debate

over whether the U.S. military should be ordered to more aggressively support Syrian rebels to oust the government of President Bashar Assad, including combat action like establishing a no-fly zone. McCain, who has called for U.S. military intervention in the Syrian civil

war, traveled to Syria in late May to meet with the rebel forces. It was the first time that a U.S. senator had traveled to Syria to meet with the rebels since the conflict erupted two years ago. But the tension between McCain, one of the Senate's most respected military vet-

erans, and Dempsey, whose career includes multiple wartime commands, is over the proper role of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs in offering military advice to a president on national security issues with a clear political component — such as going to war. □



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey testifies at a hearing on his reappointment before the Senate Armed Services Committee, on Capitol Hill in Washington, July 18, 2013. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) said Thursday that he intended to block the nomination of Dempsey to another two-year term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff following an exchange between the two over whether the Obama administration was doing enough to assist the Syrian rebels. (Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

Bernanke: Bank rules fair price for damage done

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

Tougher regulations may mean less profit for banks. But Ben Bernanke says that's a fair price to pay af-

ter the damage caused by the 2008 financial crisis. "Unsafe practices by large financial institutions pose a

proposed by the Fed and other regulators to safeguard the financial system are "well-justified on a cost-benefit basis."

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Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke testifies before the House Financial Services Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, July 17, 2013.

(C. Gregory/The New York Times)

ter the damage caused by the 2008 financial crisis. The Federal Reserve chairman told lawmakers Thursday that the crisis led to "an enormous waste of resources" and new rules

risk not just to themselves but to the rest of society," Bernanke told the Senate Banking Committee. "In setting policy we should look at the social cost and not just the cost to the

Obama: millions will get rebates with new health care act

MARK LANDLER

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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama, slipping back into his episodic role as a vigorous campaigner for his new health care act, said Thursday that thanks

to the law, more than 8.5 million Americans were getting rebates this summer from their insurance providers.

Obama was flanked by families who have benefited from a provision in the

law, which requires health insurers to spend at least 80 percent of the revenue from premiums on medical care rather than on administrative costs. Insurers who fail to meet that benchmark must reimburse cus-

tomers, a process that began in 2012.

"Last year, millions of Americans opened letters from their insurance companies, but instead of the usual dread that comes with getting a bill, they were

pleasantly surprised with a check," Obama said in a midday ceremony at the White House.

The checks typically amount to no more than a few hundred dollars. But the president, recounting stories of middle-class families arrayed on the stage behind him, celebrated these modest windfalls as an early sign of the tangible benefits of the law.

For Obama, it was a high-profile return to a debate in which his voice has sometimes seemed like it was missing. For example, he has said nothing publicly about the administration's decision to delay for a year a part of the law dealing with employer-provided insurance.

With the Republican-controlled House of Representatives voting yet again this week to repeal the Affordable Care Act, however, he seized on new statistics that demonstrate the law is driving down premiums in New York, California and several other states.

The Department of Health and Human Services just released a report asserting that, in 11 states and the District of Columbia, proposed health-insurance premiums for 2014 are nearly 20 percent lower than the administration projected. Thursday's carefully choreographed event in the East Room was intended to put the White House back on the offensive on health care, after a messy period following its decision to delay requiring employers with more than 50 employees to offer health insurance, or pay a penalty. The delay came after heavy pressure from businesses, which said the law was too complex and cumbersome to implement on time, and it provided critics with fresh ammunition for their claim that the law was putting unfair burdens on individuals and employers.

Republicans did not let up Thursday, claiming that the benefits extolled by Obama would be more than offset by higher costs. □



President Barack Obama stands with families who benefitted from the health care law provision that provides consumers with a refund if their insurance company doesn't spend the majority of premium dollars on medical care, before he speaks about health care reform and the Affordable Care Act in the East Room at the White House in Washington, Thursday, July 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

Anxiety grows among immigration supporters

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Supporters of far-reaching immigration legislation fear they're losing the message war and say an all-out campaign is needed from business groups and other outside advocates with ties to House Republicans to turn it around.

With House action now on hold until September at earliest, immigration bill backers see Congress' monthlong August recess as crucial to their cause. They're making plans to try to ensure that supporters of an immigration overhaul are heard as loudly as opponents when lawmakers return to their districts for town hall meetings and other events.

"Here's the fact: We're not

winning, so we've got to wage a campaign," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said Thursday. "There are many members of the House that don't want to take up any bill at all, as you know. What our job is, we want to convince them to at least pass legislation, so that we can go to conference and work together."

Immigration legislation, a top priority for President Barack Obama, has been in limbo since the Senate last month passed a sweeping bill with provisions aimed at securing the border, requiring employers to verify their workers' legal status, allowing many more workers into the country legally, and offering eventual citizenship to the 11 million immigrants already in the country ille-

gally.

Many members of the House's Republican majority oppose citizenship for people who crossed the border illegally or overstayed their visas, and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, has ruled out taking up the Senate bill in the House. Instead, he's declared that the House will move in a piecemeal fashion with a series of individual bills, beginning with border security.

Although Boehner had hoped for House action on immigration before August, that goal is no longer in sight. He reiterated Thursday that the House must address the issue. When and how remained unclear.

"The House is going to do its job, and we're going to

do this in a commonsense, step-by-step way," Boehner said. "Because the American people have kind of had it with 1,300-page bills that no one's read."

Individual House Republicans are grappling with the issue. Particularly vexing is the question of the millions already here illegally. Some conservatives oppose any kind of legal status for them, but others are open to offering them legal guest worker status and perhaps more. Boehner this week endorsed citizenship for those brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

For now, Democrats are opposed to any solution that falls short of citizenship for all 11 million in the country illegally. □

Detroit becomes largest US city to go bankrupt

Continued from Front

Orr had been trying to persuade creditors to accept pennies on the dollar and unions to accept cuts in benefits.

residents are black.

The nature of Detroit's situation ensures that it will be watched intensely by the municipal bond market, by public sector unions, and by leaders of other financially challenged cities.

debt.

The population of Detroit, the largest city in Michigan, is more than twice that of Stockton, Calif., which filed for bankruptcy in 2012 and had been the nation's most populous city

financial deal, like the troubled sewer system largely responsible for Jefferson County's downfall.

Instead, numerous factors have brought Detroit to this point, including a shrunken tax base but still a 139-square-mile city to maintain; overwhelming health care and pension costs; repeated efforts to manage mounting debts with still more borrowing; annual deficits in the city's operating budget since 2008; and city services crippled by aged computer systems, poor record-keeping and widespread dysfunction.

All of that makes bankruptcy - a process that could take months, if not years, and is itself expected to be costly - particularly com-

plex.

"It's not enough to say, let's reduce debt," said James E. Spiotto, an expert in municipal bankruptcy at the law firm of Chapman and Cutler in Chicago. The municipal bond market will be paying particular attention to Detroit because of what it may mean for investing in general obligation bonds. In recent weeks, as Detroit officials have proposed paying off small fractions of what the city owes, they have indicated they intend to treat investors holding general obligation bonds as equal, in essence, to city workers - a notion that conflicts with the conventions of the market, where general obligation bonds have been seen as among the safest investments. □



State-appointed emergency manager Kevyn Orr enters a news conference in Detroit, Mich., Thursday, July 18, 2013. State-appointed emergency manager Kevyn Orr asked a federal judge permission to place Detroit into Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection Thursday.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

All along, the state's involvement - including Snyder's decision to send in an emergency manager - has carried racial implications, setting off a wave of concerns for some in Detroit that the mostly white, Republican-led state government was trying to seize control of Detroit, a Democratic-held city where more than 80 percent of

Only slightly more than 60 cities, towns, villages and counties have filed under Chapter 9, the court proceeding used by municipalities, since the mid-1950s.

The debt in Detroit dwarfs that of Jefferson County, Ala., which had been the nation's largest municipal bankruptcy, having filed in 2011 with about \$4 billion in

to do so.

Other major cities, including New York and Cleveland in the 1970s and Philadelphia two decades later, have teetered near the edge of financial ruin but ultimately found solutions other than federal court. Detroit's struggle, experts say, is particularly dire because it is not limited to a single event or one failed



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Senate confirms nominees, as Republican discontent swells

JONATHAN WEISMAN
JEREMY W. PETERS

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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama's executive branch nominees continued to cruise through the Senate on Thursday, including his controversial pick to be labor secretary, Thomas E. Perez, as Republican anger over a deal to avoid a weakening of the filibuster seeped into the open.

The Senate, along strict party lines, 54-46, gave final confirmation to Perez, the Justice Department's civil rights chief, as the president's second labor secretary, then voted 59-40 to confirm his nominee to be the next Environmental Protection Agency administrator, Gina McCarthy, 154 days after the last EPA head stepped down.

Behind closed doors and in the public halls of the Capitol, Republican senators expressed regret over a deal that many now say gave them nothing. Obama will get seven nominees confirmed, including some strongly opposed by conservatives. He will resurrect the Nation-

al Labor Relations Board, which many Republicans believe tilts labor disputes toward the unions, and will sidestep mounting pressure to increase oversight of the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

In exchange, Republicans did not even get a promise that Democrats would not change the rules on executive branch nominees with a 51-vote strong-arm maneuver in the future.

"There wasn't any deal. They got what they wanted.

We basically rolled over," said Sen. Richard C. Shelby, R-Ala. "What changed is the Democrats threatened to change the rules, and they got the agreement without changing the rules."

"Senate Republicans preserved the right to surrender in the future," Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said on his Twitter feed.

To some conservatives, the Perez confirmation is already emerging as the most galling consequence of the filibuster deal, even though many Republicans said he would have gotten

the 60 votes to break a filibuster regardless.

Conservative Republicans in the House have spent months accusing Perez of being overly partisan, anti-religious and litigious to a fault.

The House Oversight and

Government Reform Committee had outstanding subpoenas issued against Perez, demanding records on a deal he struck with the city of St. Paul, Minn., to drop a lawsuit involving public housing conditions in what some Republicans

called a quid pro quo.

Republicans involved in that investigation say they have been left high and dry.

"We lost. He won," said Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, a senior member of the committee. □



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), who has complained about a deal on filibusters, leaves the Senate chambers at the Capitol in Washington, July 18, 2013. Since a deal was struck earlier this week to avoid a filibuster rules change, President Obama's executive branch nominees continued to cruise through the Senate Thursday, including his controversial pick to be labor secretary, Thomas E. Perez.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

Alleged Bulger extortion victim found dead

BRIDGET MURPHY
DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A man who had hoped to testify in the ongoing racketeering trial of reputed mobster James "Whitey" Bulger and openly despised him has been found dead, authorities said Thursday.

A jogger discovered the body of Stephen Rakes on Wednesday afternoon in woods on the side of a street in Lincoln, Massachusetts; there were no obvious signs of trauma, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office said.

Authorities conducted an autopsy Thursday, and said they were awaiting the results of toxicology tests to determine the 59-year-old Quincy man's cause and manner of death. The autopsy also found no signs of trauma.

Prosecutors say Rakes and his former wife were forced



Stephen (Stippo) Rakes, left, and Stephen Davis arrive at the James (Whitey) Bulger trial in Boston, June 12, 2013. The body of Rakes, who said he was an extortion victim of Bulger, was found on Wednesday July 17, 2013, in Lincoln, Mass., the authorities said.

(David L. Ryan/The Boston Globe)

to sell Bulger their South Boston liquor store in 1984 to use as a headquarters for his gang and as a source of legitimate income. But a government witness gave a differing account on the stand last week.

Rakes attended Bulger's trial every day through

Tuesday, when he was last seen there. Though he was a potential witness, the judge had agreed to exempt alleged victims and their families from the usual sequestration order, which keeps all witnesses out of the courtroom before their testimony. □

US official: New anti-leak measures are set at NSA

KIMBERLY DOZIER
AP Intelligence Writer
ASPEN, Colorado (AP)

— The National Security Agency is implementing new security measures because of the disclosures by former NSA-systems-analyst-turned-fugitive Edward Snowden, a top defense official said Thursday.

Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said systems administrators like Snowden must now work with a colleague when accessing sensitive, compartmented intelligence — the kind Snowden leaked to the media. The information revealed that the agency was gathering millions of U.S. phone records and intercepting some U.S. Internet traffic.

"In an effort for those in the intelligence community to be able to share with each other, there was an enor-

mous amount of information concentrated in once place. That's a mistake," he told attendees at the Aspen Security Forum. "The loading of everything onto a server creates a risk."

Matthew Olsen, the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, said during the forum that al-Qaida and related groups are seeking to change how they communicate to avoid U.S. detection and surveillance because of Snowden's leaks. Previously, U.S. officials have said anonymously that Snowden's leaks to the media have been damaging and are prompting terrorists to change their ways. NSA chief, Gen. Keith Alexander, has explained that Snowden accessed much of the information on a single internal site designed to share information. □

US Financial Front:

American unemployment aid applications drop to 334K

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell 24,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 334,000, a sign that steady job gains should continue. The drop left unemployment benefit applications at the lowest level in 10 weeks, the Labor Department said Thursday. Some of the decline may have been caused by seasonal factors. Still, the broader trend has been favorable. The four-week average, which smooths out fluctuations, fell 5,250 to 351,000. "We believe labor market conditions remain on a gradually im-

proving trajectory," said Laura Rosner, an economist at BNP Paribas. Weekly applications data can be volatile in July. Automakers typically shut their factories in the first two weeks of the month to prepare for new models, which leads to a temporary spike in layoffs. But this year much of the industry has skipped or shortened the shutdowns to keep up with stronger demand. Applications are a proxy for layoffs. They have declined 5 percent since January. The drop has coincided with stronger job growth.

Employers added an average of 202,000 jobs a month through the first six months of the year, up from

an average of 180,000 in the previous six months.

In June, they added 195,000 jobs and revisions showed 70,000 more jobs were added in April and

May. The unemployment rate stayed at 7.6 percent last month but is down from 8.2 percent a year earlier. Despite the gains in hiring, economic growth

has been weak. Most economists expect growth slowed in the April-June quarter to an annual rate of 1 percent or less, down from a tepid 1.8 percent rate at the start of the year. That would mark the third straight quarter of growth below 2 percent.

Many economists are hopeful that steady hiring will help spur faster growth in the second half of the year. More than 4.5 million people received unemployment aid in the week ending June 29, the latest data available. That's down just 1,900 from the previous week. The number of recipients has fallen 21 percent in the past year. Recent reports have painted a mixed picture of the economy. Americans bought more cars, clothes and furniture in June, but cut back retail spending almost everywhere else. Excluding purchases in the volatile categories of autos, gas and building materials, retail sales rose at the slowest pace since January. □



A job seeker holds her resume while talking with a recruiter at a career fair, in King of Prussia, Pa. The Labor Department reported a decline in the number of Americans who applied for unemployment benefits last week on Thursday July 18, 2013. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

Pointing to modest growth:

Gauge of US economy's future unchanged in June

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A gauge of the economy's future health was unchanged in June, pointing to modest growth in the coming months.

The Conference Board, a business research group, said Thursday that its index of leading indicators remained at 95.3 in June. The flat reading followed increases of 0.2 percent in May and 0.8 percent in April. The longer-term trend has been positive. The index increased 1.7 percent in the first six months of this year. That's better than the 1.1 percent rise in the previous six months.

The trend "suggests that the economy should continue to experience at least modest growth over the next 6 to 9 months," Maninder Sibia, an economist at the Economic Advisory Service, said in a note to clients. The index consists of previously released data and is intended to signal economic conditions three to six months out.

Positive trends, such as higher consumer confidence and fewer applications for unemployment benefits, were offset by last

month's decline in stock prices and a drop in building permits.

Other reports released Thursday also suggested that the economy could improve in the second half of the year after tepid growth in the first six months. The economy expanded at just a 1.8 percent annual rate in the January-March quarter. Most economists forecast that growth fell to less than a 1 percent rate in the April-June quarter. That would be the third quarter in a row in which the growth rate was less than 2 percent.

One early measure of the economy in the third quarter was positive. The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia said Thursday that its index of regional manufacturing activity expanded in July at the fastest pace in more than two years. A measure of hiring jumped into positive territory for the first time in four months and shipments increased. Orders also rose, though at a slower pace than in June. The faster expansion follows an increase in a New York manufacturing index reported earlier this week by the New York Fed.

The data "are a positive

sign that the manufacturing sector is getting off to a healthy start in the current quarter," said Joseph LaVorgna, an economist at Deutsche Bank, in a note to clients.

A third report Thursday showed that fewer Americans sought unemployment benefits last week, suggesting that the steady job gains of recent months should continue. □

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Putin critic gets 5-year jail term, setting off protests

N. VASILYEVA
Associated Press

KIROV, Russia (AP) — Alexei Navalny, a charismatic and creative Russian opposition leader who exposed high-level corruption and

Several thousand opposition supporters gathered just outside the Kremlin to protest Navalny's conviction and sentence. The request to have him released during his appeal

could be an attempt by officials to soothe public anger and to lend legitimacy to September's mayoral race, which a Kremlin-backed incumbent is expected to win.

Navalny, a popular blogger and corruption-fighting lawyer, rose to rock star status among the opposition during a series of massive protests in Moscow against President Vladimir Putin's re-election to a third presidential term in March 2012. Sentencing Navalny is the latest move in a multipronged crackdown on dissent that followed Putin's inauguration, including arrests of opposition activists and repressive legislation that sharply increased fines for participants in unsanctioned protests and imposed tough new restrictions on non-government organizations.

The Russian stock market, sensitive to politically charged issues, dove within minutes of the verdict, with the main MICEX index dropping 1.4 percent before partly recovering.

The conviction galvanized the opposition, which has been increasingly cornered by the Kremlin's crackdown and weak-

ened by internal rifts. A few hours after the verdict, several thousand activists gathered on a central avenue near Red Square, clapping hands and chanting "Freedom!" and "Putin is a thief!"

They briefly blocked traffic on busy Tverskaya avenue, shouting "This city is ours!" Police rounded up several dozen demonstrators, but didn't move to disperse the rally, which lasted for several hours.

The protesters stuck posters to advertising billboards that read: "Putin, you coward, come out!" and "Navalny to president, Putin to prison!" Activists handed out bright red stickers with similar slogans as many passing motorists blared horns in support.

The unsanctioned protest looked small compared to the massive anti-Putin demonstrations which attracted more than 100,000 in the fall of 2011 and the beginning of the following year. □



Supporters of opposition leader Alexei Navalny demonstrate in the streets after the court convicted him of stealing from a state-controlled timber company in Moscow, July 18, 2013. Navalny, who went from a prominent anti-Putin activist to political dissident when he declared his candidacy for mayor of Moscow, has been sentenced to five years in prison.

(James Hill/The New York Times)

mocked the Kremlin, was sentenced to five years in prison for embezzlement on Thursday, in a verdict that set off street protests and drew condemnation from the West.

The Moscow mayoral candidate was led from the court in handcuffs and bused to a jail. Soon afterward, in an unexpected development, prosecutors asked that he be kept free pending appeal.

UK police arrest 2 men over mosque blasts

LONDON (AP) — British counterterrorism police are questioning two eastern European men in connection with two explosions near mosques in central England in recent weeks. No injuries were reported in either blast, which came amid heightened religious tensions in the U.K. over the

killing of a British soldier by suspected Islamic extremists.

West Midlands Police said Thursday that a 25-year-old man and a 22-year-old man were arrested under the Terrorism Act in relation to the two blasts.

The first explosion occurred near the Aisha Mosque and

Islamic Center in Walsall on June 21, and the second blast near the Kanz-ul-Iman Muslim Welfare Association Central Jamia mosque in the town of Tipton on July 12.

On Thursday, police said officers are carrying out a search in the area where the men were detained and have evacuated some properties as a precaution.

Army bomb disposal experts are at the scene, the force added.

Police also evacuated a mosque in Wolverhampton, saying "new information" had been received in light of the Walsall and

Tipson inquiries regarding a possible "device activation" on June 28 at the Wolverhampton Central Mosque.

Police did not provide further details, saying only that a military bomb disposal team was en route. West Midlands Police have stepped up patrols following the Walsall and Tipson blasts.

The Tipton blast came on the same day as the funeral of soldier Lee Rigby, who was killed in broad daylight by alleged Islamic extremists on a London street. That attack in May triggered a spike in religious tensions in subsequent weeks. □

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Iran's Ahmadinejad highlights ties in final Iraq visit

ADAM SCHRECK
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Outgoing Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad paid a final official visit to Iraq on Thursday, seeking to emphasize the growing relations between the Shiite-led neighbors just weeks before he steps down from the job.

The Iranian leader is meeting with top Iraqi officials and visiting Shiite holy sites during his two-day visit to Iraq, which is grappling with its worst outbreak of violence in half a decade. Iraq is home to some of Shiite Islam's most sacred shrines and is a major destination for the sect's pilgrims.

Ahmadinejad is just weeks away from handing over power to president-elect Hasan Rouhani, who is expected to be sworn in in early August. That leaves little chance that his visit will lead to major shifts in relations between the countries or their stance toward the Syrian civil war raging across Iraq's western border.

In brief remarks following talks with Iraqi Vice President Khudier al-Khuzai, Ahmadinejad emphasized Tehran's determination to

strengthen ties further with Baghdad while linking his own country's success with

Islamic Revolution and the two countries' bloody war in the 1980s. He used that

time foes and take swipes at the United States over the legacy of its 2003 mili-

"We are determined to make use of all available opportunities to develop brotherly relations," Ahmadinejad said.

Ahmadinejad was given a red-carpet greeting by al-Khuzai upon arrival at the airport in Baghdad. The vice president is standing in for Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, who suffered a stroke in December and has been absent from Iraq's political scene while he receives treatment in a German hospital.

Al-Khuzai underscored Baghdad's interest in strengthening ties with Iran, saying Iraq "can be a bridge for good relations between the Islamic Republic and the Arab world." Many of the Middle East's Sunni-ruled Arab states are wary of Iran's intentions in the region.

Neither leader made any mention of Syria during a short press conference. They did not take any questions. □



Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, from left, and Iraqi Vice President Khudier al-Khuzai attend a joint news conference in Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, July 18, 2013. Iran's outgoing President Ahmadinejad has landed in Iraq on his second visit as head of government, highlighting the growing ties between the two Shiite-led neighbors. A man, center, is a translator. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

that of Iraq.

"The prosperity, progress and security of Iraq are also Iran's prosperity, progress and security," Ahmadinejad said before later holding talks with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Ahmadinejad previously flew to Iraq in 2008, the first ever trip by an Iranian president since Iran's 1979

earlier visit to emphasize a new chapter in "brotherly" relations between the one-

tary invasion.

It was a theme he touched on again Thursday.

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Captain on trial in Italy wants shipwreck tests

**ANDREW MEDICHINI
FRANCES D'EMILIO
GROSSETO, Italy (AP)** —

The captain of the cap-sized Costa Concordia on Thursday asked the judge at his manslaughter trial to order tests on the cruise liner's wreckage to determine why electrical and other systems failed after the vessel struck a reef off an Italian island in 2012, killing 32 people.

The outcome of the request from Francesco Schettino, the sole defendant, won't be known until at least September. After only two full days of hearings, Judge Giovanni Puliatti on Thursday adjourned the trial until Sept. 23 for summer's break.

Schettino is also charged with causing the shipwreck and abandoning ship before all aboard had been evacuated. His defense claims that no one died in the collision itself, but that the failure of a backup generator and supposedly water-tight compartments that were flooded created problems during the evacuation, when the deaths occurred. The court needs

"to understand what happened after the collision," Domenico Pepe, one of Schettino's lawyers, said outside the trial, which is being held in a theater in Grosseto to accommodate all the survivors or

would have been power to run elevators" to facilitate the evacuation of the 4,200 passengers and crew members who were aboard, Pepe told reporters. Salvage crews working on an ambitious project to

to wait until Judge Puliatti rules on the defense request for experts to expert the ship, that timetable be delayed. Engineers have said the ship might not survive another winter of stormy seas intact enough to be righted and then floated away. They said earlier this week that the ship is slowing compressing under its own weight atop a granite ledge of seabed where it came to rest. However, extensive monitoring indicates the Concordia hasn't budged from its perch. Just off the rock ledge is a steep drop into the sea. If the Concordia starts sliding off the ledge, it could plunge too deeply to be removed. Survivors described a chaotic and delayed evacuation and were shocked to see Schettino safely reach the Tuscan island of Giglio before many others made it to shore. Seawater rushed through the 70-meter (230-foot) long gash in the hull, invading what was supposed to be water-tight compartments, including one housing the engine room. □



Domnica Cemortan, a young Moldovan woman who says she was called to the bridge of the stricken Costa Concordia, talks with one of Captain Francesco Schettino's lawyers, Francesco Pepe, during the trial of Captain Francesco Schettino in Grosseto, Thursday, July 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

victims' families who might want to attend. As one example, Pepe cited the failure of an emergency generator to work. Had it functioned after the cruise ship's hull was pierced by the rocky reef, "there

try to right the ship, which is lying on one side just outside Giglio's port, and then float it to the Italian mainland for demolition, hope to pull up the Concordia in mid-September. But if Italian authorities decide

Interpol nets millions in fake goods in sting

GREG KELLER

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — More than 6,000 people around the world were arrested in a two-month anti-counterfeiting sweep that netted tens of millions of dollars worth of fake shampoo in China, phony cigarettes in Turkey and bogus booze in Chile, Interpol said Thursday.

In all, the operations coordinated by the Lyon, France-based international police agency in May and June seized some 24 million fake goods worth nearly \$133 million, Interpol said in a statement. The combined haul ranks among the largest operations ever conducted by the agency's special anti-counterfeiting unit, according to its director, Michael Ellis.

As part of the worldwide push against counterfeiting, the agency helped lead operations by local authorities in the Americas, Africa, Europe and, for the first time, in Asia. The Asian operation shut down 21 production sites operated by eight criminal syndicates making fake shampoo and toothpaste in southern China. More than 400 people were arrested in Thailand for hawking counterfeit clothing and DVDs, while in Vietnam police arrested an individual linked to \$6 million worth of illicit electronic appliances. Ellis highlighted the significance of the Chinese police cooperation for the first time. "We reach out to various national police forces on a regional basis. This time the police in China joined the operation, with great effect," he said. Interpol will use intelligence gathered during the raids to look for links between criminal organizations, Ellis said. "The way the criminal networks work, there will be links. There's a factory in one country, distribution supply chain in one country, money paid in a third country," Ellis said.

Beyond the record number of arrests for an Interpol operation, the most important achievement was the shuttering of numerous factories where fake goods are made, Ellis said. □

Japan, South Korea agree to improve relations

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's foreign minister and a senior South Korean official met and agreed Thursday on the need for more work

on improving relations strained by a territorial dispute and lingering historical antagonisms. Foreign Minister Fumio

Kishida and South Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kyou-hyun met in Tokyo and said they agreed to continue dialogue on

resolving the difficult issues between them.

Speaking after their meeting, Kishida described South Korea as an "important partner and neighbor."

"We hope they will make efforts in approaching the issue by taking the long and broad view in resolving the difficult problems that we have had for some time" Kim said of his Japanese hosts.

Tokyo's ties with South Korea and China have been strained by conflicting claims to islands in north Asia and by the legacy of Japan's occupation before and during World War II.

Japan and South Korea are united, however, in their concern over the potential threat from North Korea and their military alliances with the United States. □



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Germany's Schaeuble sees no shortcut for Greek austerity

D. GATOPOULOS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Germany's finance minister visited Greece on Thursday amid massive police security, insisting there was "no convenient shortcut" for the country's debt problems despite an alarming increase in poverty and unemployment during the crisis. The 70-year-old Wolfgang Schaeuble is widely seen in Greece as an enforcer of the country's harsh austerity measures and has been often singled out for criticism by protesters. Security concerns over his one-day visit — which occurred a day after Parliament narrowly agreed to thousands of public-sector job cuts — were such that 4,000 police were deployed and demonstrations were banned throughout much of central Athens.



A protester holds up a Greek flag with a slogan reading "Mr. Schaeuble bring back the stolen" during a protest against the visit of German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble in Athens, Thursday, July 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Kostas Tsironis)

Schaeuble, on his first visit to Greece since its financial crisis broke out in 2009, said the country had taken "big steps" to try and balance its budget. But he added that the debt-strapped country had little choice other than to press ahead with painful reforms.

"There is no way around structural and fiscal reforms that are currently being carried out. The only way to achieve sustainable growth is to make the economy competitive and reduce public deficits," Schaeuble said, speaking in English.

"There is no convenient shortcut. We had to take a long and painful path to become the very center of growth and anchor of stability in Europe." Schaeuble discouraged

talk of Greece receiving a second write-off — or 'hair-cut' — on its public debt following the massive debt restructuring deal agreed with private sector bondholders last year. □

ECB unveils plan to boost credit to businesses

DAVID McHUGH

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The European Central Bank is easing some of its lending rules to encourage banks to provide more credit to companies and help Europe's stagnant economy recover.

Lack of credit is a major factor holding back the economies of eurozone countries such as Spain and Italy. The ECB has set its interest rate benchmark at a record low of 0.5 percent — but shaky banks are not passing those low rates on to companies and households.

One way around that is if banks can have loans packaged into securities — called asset-backed securities — and sell them.

That would free up money for more loans and raise cash from investors who wouldn't normally loan directly to companies.

The ECB said Thursday it would now accept lower-rated asset-backed securities as collateral for the loans it gives to banks.

The ECB's move is designed to encourage banks to create more such securities, since they could use them to get credit themselves from the central bank at its regular offerings.

Although such steps in theory increase the ECB's risk of loss, it balanced the measures by tightening rules in another area. It restricted the use of other kinds of asset-backed securities known as covered bonds.

The bank made the credit

moves on its own even though it has long stressed that other European Union institutions, such as governments, have a major role to play in further loosening credit in the parts of the eurozone hardest hit by the financial crisis.

Beyond Thursday's measures, the ECB is in talks with the European Investment Bank on further steps to encourage a market for asset-backed securities as a source of credit for small and medium sized businesses. One possible measure could be EIB guarantees for the packaged loans, which would raise their credit ratings and enable a broader range of investors to buy them. The EIB is backed by eurozone taxpayers and run by their governments. □

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Argentina: Jews demand justice from Iran in bombing

MICHAEL WARREN

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentine Jewish leaders harshly criticized their government on Thursday, the 19th anniversary of the nation's deadliest terror attack, for dealing with Iran in ways they fear will only guarantee more impunity for those responsible.

A joint Argentine-Iran "truth commission" approved by both governments promises to move the investigation forward by enabling Argentine prosecutors to travel to Teheran and question high-ranking Iranian officials suspected of organiz-

ing the attack.

The bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association in downtown Buenos Aires killed 85 people in 1994 and remains unsolved. But prosecutor Alberto Nisman recently released a 500-page indictment that accuses Iran and Hezbollah organizing the attack and continuing to establish cells across South America to launder money and commit acts of terror.

Iran denies any involvement in the bombing, and rejected Nisman's indictment as a Zionist conspiracy theory.

There is no indication that

Iran will ever allow suspects in the attack to be extradited from the country.

The Iranian suspects have spent years on Interpol lists, without being apprehended.

The association, meanwhile, has sued to block the truth commission as unconstitutional, saying any suspects must be brought to justice in Argentina.

Speaking to a crowd of survivors huddling in Thursday's frigid winter chill outside the rebuilt Jewish center, Association president Leonardo Jmelnitsky cast doubt on Iran's intentions. "What confidence can we

have in Iran when the same government has denied the genocide of six million Jews in the Holocaust?" Jmelnitsky asked.

Sofia Guterman, who lost her daughter Andrea in the bombing, accused her own government of subjecting the survivors to endless cycles of hope and dismay, of "demands for justice, impunity, memory, impunity, grief, impunity. The impunity has reigned, fed by the guilty, the accomplices and those who covered up the truth. It's difficult to understand," she said. □



People hold up signs that read in Spanish "Justice" and pictures of the victims of the bombing of the AMIA Jewish community center on the 19th anniversary of the terrorist attack in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Thursday, July 18, 2013. The bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association in downtown Buenos Aires killed 85 people in 1994 and remains unsolved.

(AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

Rain, wind downs trees, light posts in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A tropical wave passing over Puerto Rico Thursday caused heavy flooding and damaged infrastructure across the U.S. territory. Emergency management officials said heavy lightning and rain downed some trees, knocked over several light posts and damaged a balcony in the island's

eastern region. Dozens of cars were left stranded in floodwaters along some of the island's main highways in the San Juan metropolitan area.

National Weather Service Director Roberto Garcia said a 1950 rainfall record at San Juan's main international airport was broken on Thursday. More than 8

inches (20 centimeters) of rain have fallen there so far. Twelve flights scheduled to land at the Luis Munoz Marin international airport were rerouted to a smaller airport in the northwest town of Aguadilla, said Ports Authority Director Victor Suarez.

Officials said operations at the main airport resumed

Thursday afternoon.

Garcia said the tropical wave is expected to next hit Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Also known as an easterly wave, a tropical wave is a type of atmospheric trough that is a long area of low air pressure that moves east to west across the tropics, causing cloudiness and thunderstorms. □

REPORT:

Brazil murders rise sharply over three decades

MARCO SIBAJA

Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — The murder rate in Brazil has more than doubled over the past three decades, a new report said Thursday. Prepared by the nonprofit Center for Latin American Studies in Rio de Janeiro, the "2013 Map of Violence" report said that in 2011 the murder rate in Brazil was 27.4 per 100,000 inhabitants, or 132 percent higher than the 11.7 per 100,000 registered in 1980. It also said that between 1980 and 2011, 1.2 million people were murdered in Brazil, nearly 39 percent of them youths aged 14 to 24. The report draws on statistics from Brazil's Health Ministry as well as from the Global Burden of Armed Violence reports issued by the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, an international organization that regularly tracks such figures for countries worldwide.

Tiao Santos, of the directors of Viva Rio, a Rio de Janeiro-based group that elaborates crime-reduction projects, called the increase "shocking."

The statistics "show that crime has migrated from large capital cities and urban centers — traditionally the most violent — to small- and medium-sized cities and towns," he said.

Santos said he believes that drug trafficking and the large number of firearms circulating in Brazil helps explain Brazil's rising crime rate.

He called Brazil "one of the most heavily armed countries in the world," with more than half of the 15 million firearms in the country illegal and unregistered. □





Art Rules Pariba Enjoys Successful First Week!



SAN NICOLAS - The island's premier arts education program got rolling on July 15th, at the Abraham de Veer School and at Skol Di Arte in San Nicolas with 215 local teens enrolled in a program offering two intense weeks of workshops and instruction, under the guidance of accomplished artists from around the world.

Art Rules Pariba, in its 4th consecutive year is the initiative of the Pancake gallery foundation, Ayra & Ira Kip, who by annually organizing the summer program hope to cultivate talent, inspire and motivate young people on the island to ex-

press themselves.

Art Rules Pariba opened with a special Pancake Brunch, with all participants, aspiring Aruban Artist between the ages of 13 and 26 signing up, meetings their teachers, and familiarizing themselves with expectations and curriculum.

The Pancake Gallery, as a foundation has created a strong support network for Aruba's teens by providing them not only a platform to express themselves in an artistic way but to also creatively tackle social issues that currently challenge the island's youth. Keeping kids off the street and pro-

ductive during the summer holidays by exposing them to culture and art education is Art Rules Aruba's mission. RBC Royal Bank has a well-established tradition of supporting the arts in the region through a variety of educational and artistic projects. RBC Royal Bank is proud to be the signature sponsor once again of Art Rules Aruba as this arts program has proven to be very successful and lets everybody see how much talent we have on the island. Art Rules Aruba has for the past 4 years mostly relied on the support of the private sector and local businesses to make this project

financially possible. Encouraging this way of Arts education on the Island has been made possible with 4th time returning partners and sponsor Aruba Airport Authority, Marketing Plus NV, Playa Linda Beach Resort and Swingmasterz Pro Sounds. With them Art Rules Aruba has also been made possible with the help of Europcar Aruba, La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino, Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, Beyond Precision, SNS Reaal Fonds, Prins Bernard Cultuur Fonds, La Trattoria El Faro Blanco, Precision Printing, Aruba Time Share Association, Caribbean Palm Village

Resort, the department of Justice and Education and the Minister of Finance and Energy.

For information on the program, it's sponsors, news, exclusive updates and more visit www.artrulesaruba.com or like the Art Rules Aruba facebook/[artrulesaruba](https://www.facebook.com/artrulesaruba) or twitter @[artrulesaruba](https://twitter.com/artrulesaruba). □



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Treasure Hunt, where kids and parents scour the resort for pirate clues which brings the kid out, in the adults, and gives youngsters an opportunity to spend quality time with the otherwise ever-busy parents.

Pedro Vargas, Rooms Division Manager, reports that the entire staff also jumps on board, including Pearl, Catherine, Diana, Shelo, members of the front office, the concierge and the activities staff, Daniel and her crew, the F&B and of course Captain Phoe-



PALM BEACH - Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort has geared up for the annual summer vacation, providing family members, young and old, with a program of exciting activities and events.

The program is aptly titled Divi's Treasures of the Caribbean, and it invited children ages 4 to 12, to join the Divi Pirate Crew in the great outdoors, for complimentary activities. Among the resort's most fun weekly happening, the



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nix and the Divi Dutchmen, who love to mingle, making sure guests have a great time.

For the weekly Sandcastle Building contest teams are pitched against each other on the white sandy beach in front of the resort with the best architectural creation receiving a prize, and all participants enjoying free ice cream under the sun.

On Fridays, movie night, complete with popcorn, snacks, and Shirley Temples, entertains the younger generation with the newest Hollywood releases.

Best of all, pictures from the activities are posted on Facebook daily as a reminder of a great Aruba Summer Vacation at the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort. □

Welcome back Teters! Bugaloe Welcomes Back Loyal Guests John & Richard!



PALM BEACH- This week a warm welcome to the Teters from Atlanta, Georgia. They fell in love with Aruba 10 years ago, and have been returning every year since! Not only Bugaloe keeps them coming back to the island, the friendly people and spectacular sunsets are the definite highlights of Aruba, they say. You can find John and Richard enjoying those views from Bugaloe Beach Bar, while savoring their favorite meal: Grilled Grouper Sandwich. Together with an Absolut Tanqueray and Cranberry, their day and night has just begun! They love dancing the night away at one of Bugaloe's live music nights. These nights being together with the whole family, are definitely their fondest memories of Bugaloe. The Bugaloe Crew would like to thank John and Richard for being such loyal Bugaloe guests and hopes to see them returning for many more years! □

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Drugs, Pirates, Puig headline second half in MLB

HOWIE RUMBERG

AP Sports Writer

Much of the focus as Major League Baseball heads into the second half is on the possible suspensions of Alex Rodriguez, Ryan Braun and a handful of All-Stars implicated in the Biogenesis drug scandal.

Puigmania, a Pittsburgh Pirates revival and one impressive power show in Baltimore may shift the gaze back onto the field.

Fans who have been celebrating Mariano Rivera at every stop of his farewell tour should get a chance to watch returning stars Derek Jeter, Chris Carpenter, A-Rod and even Manny Ramirez after a first half dominated by 20-somethings.

The American League won the All-Star game on Tuesday, giving home-field advantage in the World Series back to the junior circuit after three years of National League dominance. Now the race is on to get to the World Series, and some underachieving pre-season favorites are looking to make their moves. Every playoff spot is legitimately up for grabs, with no team leading a division by more than a half-dozen games. And the NL East, where Atlanta is up six on Washington, is the only place where the division leader is ahead by three games or more.

What to look for in the second half, that begins on Friday:

CLOCK IS TICKING

— The Washington Nationals need a healthy Bryce Harper to get into a groove and help them chase down Atlanta.

— The big-spending Los Angeles Dodgers are suddenly surging, 17-5 since June 22, thanks to the youthful exuberance of Yasiel Puig, with a smile to match that



In this June 30, 2013 file photo, Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig hits a triple against the Philadelphia Phillies during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

of owner Magic Johnson. — North of the border, the Blue Jays made the biggest offseason moves but NL Cy Young Award winner R.A. Dickey's knuckleball has been mostly off-target and Toronto finds itself in last place in the powerful AL East. But don't count anyone out in what's widely considered the toughest division in the majors.

— Pedro Alvarez and the Pittsburgh Pirates appear poised to put 20 years of misery behind them, after two years of teasing their fans by being in the hunt heading into the break only to fade down the stretch. With the Houston Astros now in the AL, the NL Central is one of the most competitive divisions. Cincinnati Reds manager Dusty Baker knew it would be a stiffer challenge this year.

"I figured it'd be close, closer, because none of us have the Astros in our divi-

sion that we were counting on — not to malign them — but they were in our division last year and every team kind of counted on beating them," he said. "Now you've got to beat each other."

— So far it's been a holiday for Josh Hamilton in his first year in Los Angeles, even

with Houston in the division. He'll have to improve on his .224 average, .413 slugging percentage for the Angels to have a shot to overtake Home Run Derby champ Yoenis Cespedes and the pesky Athletics. Albert Pujols' ballclub is 11 games back in the AL West and nine games behind for



In this July 11, 2013 file photo, Baltimore Orioles' Chris Davis, center, is greeted by teammates in the dugout after hitting a solo home run in the second inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers in Baltimore.

Associated Press

the wild card.

HOMER CRUSH

Baltimore's big bopper Chris Davis is off on a race of his own. With 37 homers before the break — tying Reggie Jackson (1969) for best ever in the AL — talk of the single-season home run record is bubbling again.

Crush Davis, however, doesn't have his sights set on Barry Bonds' 73 homers, he wants to top Roger Maris' 61, the number he thinks is the legitimate, untainted mark.

"After everything came out, I assumed 61 was the record," Davis said. "I think it's what a lot of fans would agree on."

Davis, whose previous career high for homers was last year's 33, needs 25 long balls in 66 games to reach 62. Of course, most of the rest of MLB goes with Bonds' number, including Davis' teammate Adam Jones.

"He still hit them over the fence," Jones said.

A HALF FOR THE AGED

Move over whippersnappers, the old guard is back — maybe.

Mike Trout, Bryce Harper, Matt Harvey, Patrick Corbin and a record 39 first-time All-Stars grabbed the spotlight in the first half but expect to see some seasoned stars in the next few weeks who could impact the pennant races. The injury-ravaged Yankees have hung around in the potent AL East with a lineup of strangers. Now they should get captain Derek Jeter back after a one-game false start and Alex Rodriguez's return from offseason hip surgery is imminent.

The St. Louis Cardinals have surged to MLB's best record in part behind the pitching of some pretty good rookies. □

Zach Johnson leads at Muirfield, Woods lurks

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Sports Writer

GULLANE, Scotland (AP)

— A blue sky and a gentle breeze usually means ripe scoring conditions at the British Open. Just not on the brown links of Muirfield. Zach Johnson handled it better than anyone Thursday. Helped along by a 45-foot eagle putt and only one bogey despite trouble lurking around every pot bunker, Johnson had a 5-under 66 for a one-shot lead, the first time he's been atop the leaderboard at any major since he rallied to win the Masters six years ago.

Tiger Woods more than survived the late end of the draw, after the sun had thoroughly baked out the crispy greens and allowed only eight of the 20 rounds under par. He knocked one putt clear off the green, but 10 one-putts — most of them for pars — carried him to a 69, a good start in his bid to end his five-year drought in the majors.

"The golf course progressively got more dried out and more difficult as we played," Woods said. "And I'm very pleased to shoot anything even par or better."

And for all the talk about Muirfield's men-only membership, at least the club doesn't discriminate against age.

Mark O'Meara, the 56-year-old who won his claret jug in 1998 at Royal Birkdale, shot a 67 and nearly tied Johnson for the lead until his 25-foot birdie putt on the 18th took a hard spin out of the cup. Another former champion, 54-year-old Tom Lehman, opened with a 68.

It was an eclectic group who broke par, from major champions to players making their British Open debut. What they all had in common was finding a way to get through a firm, fast and frightening test at Muirfield that is likely to get

even harder if the Royal & Ancient doesn't put some water on the links course.

Phil Mickelson opened with a 69 and felt like he got off easy by playing in the morning. Mickelson was concerned about some hole locations being too close to the edge of slopes, and he pleaded with the R&A to let go of its ego and "just set the course up the way the best players can win."

Some of the best did just fine.

"Anytime you shoot under par in an Open — or a major, for that matter — you have to be putting at least somewhat decent," Johnson said. "And I putted great. I made some nice birdie putts and obviously that one for eagle. But I struck some really nice, solid par putts. That's what you've got to do to stay in it."

Rafael Cabrera-Bello of Spain joined O'Meara at 67, while the group at 68 included Dustin Johnson and Brandt Snedeker, who each have contended on Sunday over the last two years in the Open. Two-time major champion Angel Cabrera, who lost in a playoff at the Masters in April, and 19-year-old Jordan Spieth were in the group at 69.

It was a beautiful day along the Firth of Forth. And it was hard work.

No one felt safe until the ball stopped bouncing along the crusty fairways, and no one was sure when that would happen.

"I haven't seen anything like this," said Snedeker, who tied the 36-hole Open record a year ago at Lytham. "I've played in, I think, five Opens. This is completely new to me — foreign to see a 2-iron going 300 yards. You have got to be wary of how you're shaping your golf ball, and what shot selections you're using on the greens."

O'Meara thought he hit



Tiger Woods of the United States plays a shot off the 16th tee during the first round of the British Open Golf Championship at Muirfield, Scotland, Thursday July 18, 2013. Associated Press

a reasonable bunker shot on the 15th until it kept rolling — and rolling — off the green and into another bunker.

"They get so glassy and crispy around the holes," Graeme McDowell, who played with Woods, said after a 75. "You literally can see 300 footprints around the hole from all the players and caddies that have been out there today. They just get really shiny, and really glassy. I couldn't single out a pin that I thought was unfair. But if you got on the wrong side of them, they could make you look very, very silly."

Yes, there was plenty of that.

Rory McIlroy never looked comfortable, and it caught up with him. After missing left of the 12th green, he chipped it up the slope and watched it roll back down to his feet. His next chip was long and he wound up with double bogey. On the 15th hole, his putt to the back pin rolled well past the hole and into a bunker for another double bogey. A bogey-bogey finish gave him a 79, his highest score at the Open since that 80 in the vicious wind of St. Andrews in 2010.

At least he had some company.

Luke Donald, another for-

mer No. 1 player in the world, had a double bogey and a triple bogey two holes apart on the back nine. He shot 80. Nick Faldo celebrated his 56th birthday with a return to the links where he won two of his three claret jugs. He shot a 79, but still enjoyed the nerves and the emotions of seeing the gallery lining both sides of the fairway in his first Open in three years.

Lloyd Saltman got the 142nd Open off to a dubious start when it took him three tee shots to get his ball in play. He made a quadruple-bogey eight. Some eight hours later, Woods hooked his opening tee shot so far left, and into grass so deep, that he took a penalty shot for an unplayable lie. Woods hit into a bunker, but blasted out to 4 feet to escape with bogey. He made four birdies in his round, including a 25-foot bender behind the 13th hole. But it was the clutch putting that kept him going.

Dustin Johnson played the three par 5s in 4-under, yet what made him smile was a par. From left of the par-3 seventh green, he chipped between two bunkers and watched the ball ride the rounded face of one, roll precariously near the top of another and settled 4

feet away.

"That," he said, "was sweet."

Mickelson, coming off a win at the Scottish Open on a links-styled course at Castle Stuart, rolled in three big putts early in his round and kept it together with great lag putts for par when he ran into what he called "technical difficulties."

He rallied with a pair of late birdies, only for his last attempt from 15 feet above the hole on the 18th to slide some 6 feet by for a three-putt bogey. Even so, Lefty was pleased to be done as the greens turned brown.

"I got very lucky to play early today because as the day wore on and we got to the back nine, about a third of every green started to die and become brown," he said. "And the pins were very edgy, on the slopes. The guys that played early had a huge, huge break. Because even without any wind, it's beyond difficult."

It was tough all day.

Ninety-eight players in the 156-man field had at least a double bogey on their scorecards. Former U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover might have summed it up best when he took to Twitter after opening with an 80.

"Muirfield 1, Me 0." □



A member of the Italy team is thrown up in the air during a synchronized swimming training session ahead of the FINA Swimming World Championships in Barcelona, Spain, Thursday, July 18, 2013. Associated Press

FINA: 2017 worlds may be moved from Guadalajara

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — The 2017 world swimming championships to be held in Guadalajara may be moved to another city in Mexico, FINA said on Thursday.

"In principle, it is Guadalajara but we don't know yet. We will know definitively in some months," said Julio Maglione, president of the swimming governing body. In 2011, Guadalajara was awarded the right to host the biennial competition.

"For us the city is Guadalajara, but nevertheless if the Mexican authorities want to choose somewhere else we have to look at it and consider it," FINA executive director Cornel Marculescu said.

On Friday, FINA will announce the host cities for the 2019 and 2021 worlds. The candidates are Budapest, the United Arab Emirates, Gwangju in South Korea, and Baku in Azerbaijan. □

Williams sisters among 5 past champs in US Open

WHITE PLAINS, New York (AP) — Top-ranked Serena Williams and her sister Venus are among five past champions getting direct entry into the U.S. Open women's main draw.

They're also two of 10 Americans in the provisional field, the most of any country. The U.S. Tennis Association said on Thursday that 100 of the top 102 in the WTA rankings are in the field. Serena Williams has won four of her 16 Grand

Slam singles titles at Flushing Meadows, including last year, while Venus Williams won the tournament in 2000 and 2001.

Other past champions in the field are Maria Sharapova, Sam Stosur and Svetlana Kuznetsova, along with two-time Australian Open winner Victoria Azarenka and recent Wimbledon champion Marion Bartoli.

The hard-court tournament begins on Aug. 26. □

Frenchman Christophe Riblon wins stage 18 in Alps



Stage winner Christophe Riblon of France leads the breakaway group as they climb towards Alpe-d'Huez pass during the eighteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 172.5 kilometers (107.8 miles) with start in Gap and finish in Alpe-d'Huez, France, Thursday July 18, 2013. Associated Press

JEROME PUGMIRE
AP Sports Writer
L'ALPE D'HUEZ, France (AP) — Christophe Riblon became the first Frenchman to win a stage on this year's Tour de France

and Chris Froome boosted his overall lead despite a late struggle on Thursday's 18th stage that cost him a 20-second time penalty. Riblon caught American Tejay van Garderen with about two kilometers remaining on the day's second ride up L'Alpe d'Huez, one of the Tour's most famous climbs.

Riblon threw his hands up and pumped his fists after clinching the second Tour stage win of his career, three years after winning another mountain trek. Van Garderen finished 59 seconds behind in second, and Italian Moreno Moser was 1:27 behind in third. "To raise my arms aloft at L'Alpe d'Huez is incredible," Riblon said. "With five kilometers to go I thought I had lost it."

He dedicated the win to his

AG2R La Mondiale teammate Jean-Christophe Peraud, who fractured his shoulder in Wednesday's time trial and had to pull out.

Froome, 3:18 back in seventh, is now more than five minutes ahead of his main rival Alberto Contador with just three stages remaining. He is edging closer to becoming the second British rider to win the Tour, following Sky teammate Bradley Wiggins' success last year. He would have been further ahead had he not been hit with a 20-second time penalty. With about four kilometers to go, he grabbed an energy bar from teammate Richie Porte — forbidden under race rules as riders are not allowed to take food within six kilometers from the stage end. Porte also got a 20-second penalty.

"That's one of those things that come with the race," Froome said. "I was really going into a little bit of a sugar low then. I don't know if it helped me ... I

asked my teammate Richie Porte to get some sugar from the car."

The 172.5-kilometer (107-mile) route from Gap to L'Alpe d'Huez featured two HC ascents of L'Alpe d'Huez — meaning they were so tough they were beyond classification, known as Hors Catégorie.

"It wasn't easy," Froome said. "The whole team worked very hard to keep the yellow jersey."

Contador was dropped by Froome on the second ascent of L'Alpe d'Huez and finished 11th. The two-time former champion just held on to second place overall, but 5:11 behind Froome. Colombian climber Nairo Quintana moved up to third overall and 21 seconds behind Contador. With about 12 kilometers to go on the last climb, Froome launched one of his trademark attacks. About a kilometer later, he attacked again and only Quintana could keep up with him as Contador dropped away. □

Federer, Haas reach Hamburg quarterfinals



Swiss tennis player Roger Federer serves a ball to Czech Jan Hajek during their round of 16 match at the International German Open ATP tennis tournament in Hamburg, Germany, Thursday July 18, 2013. Federer won in two sets by 6-4 and 6-3.

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Top-seeded Roger Federer cruised past Czech qualifier Jan Hajek 6-4, 6-3 to reach the German Tennis Championships quarterfinals on Thursday. The four-time Hamburg champion is playing his first tournament since losing in the second round of Wimbledon. Federer used only three of 13 break points and needed six match points to close out the match. He did it with his seventh ace, moments after producing a spectacular overhead smash winner with a flick of the wrist while stepping back. The 17-time Grand Slam champion needed five set points to end the first set, finally earning it when Hajek

netted a forehand. Federer has dropped to No. 5, his lowest ranking in a decade. He will next play Florian Mayer of Germany, who beat 11th-seeded Feliciano Lopez of Spain 7-6 (1), 6-2. Second-seeded Tommy Haas also advanced by beating Carlos Berlocq of Argentina 6-2, 6-4. The German led 5-2 in the second set but dropped serve. He then wasted two match points on Berlocq's serve before using his fourth to close out the second-round encounter, hitting a cross-court forehand winner. Berlocq won his maiden title in Bastad, Sweden, last week. Juan Monaco, the fifth-seeded Argentine who beat Haas for the Hamburg

Associated Press title last year, defeated Benoit Paire of France 6-3, 2-6, 6-2. Haas next plays Fabio Fognini of Italy, who beat Marcel Granollers of Spain 6-2, 6-4. Fognini won his first title last week in Stuttgart and beat Haas in the quarterfinals. Monaco plays third-seeded Nicolas Almagro, who beat Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 6-2, 6-3. Fourth-seeded Wimbledon semifinalist Jerzy Janowicz of Poland was forced to retire with a right arm injury, allowing Fernando Verdasco to advance. The Spaniard, who was leading 7-5, 4-0, will next play Argentine qualifier Federico Delbonis, who beat Dmitry Tursunov of Russia 6-4, 6-3. □

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Memory decline may be earliest sign of dementia

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer
BOSTON (AP) — Memory problems that are often dismissed as a normal part of aging may not be so harmless after all. Noticing you have a decline beyond the occasional misplaced car keys or forgotten name could be the very earliest sign of Alzheimer's, several research teams are reporting. Doctors often regard people who complain that their memory is slipping as "the worried well," but the new studies show they may well have reason to worry, said Maria Carrillo, a senior scientist at the Alzheimer's Association.

One study found that self-reported memory changes preceded broader mental decline by about six years. Another tied these changes to evidence on brain scans that dementia is setting in. "Maybe these people know something about themselves" that their doctors don't, "and maybe we should pay attention to them," said Dorene Rentz, a Massachusetts General Hospital psychologist. She helped run one of the studies, which were discussed Wednesday at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Boston. About 35 million people worldwide have dementia, and Alzheimer's disease is the most common type. It causes a slow decline in thinking and reasoning ability.

Memory trouble that disrupts daily life is one symptom. Don't panic, though: The researchers are not talking about "senior moments," those small, temporary



This Friday, June 21, 2013 photo shows magnets on a cabinet at the Alzheimer's Association Headquarters in Chicago advertising their help line.

lapses most everyone has, said Creighton Phelps, a neuroscientist with the U.S. National Institute on Aging. They are talking about real memory loss, in which the information doesn't come back to you later, not even when people remind you of what you forgot, he explained.

A true decline is a change in your normal pattern. "You're starting to forget things now that you normally didn't — doctor appointments, luncheon engagements, the kids are coming over ... things that a year or two ago you wouldn't," said Dr. Ronald Petersen, director of the Mayo Clinic's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. Pati Hoffman, of Carol Stream, Illinois, near Chicago, used to design menus and organize events for restaurants but began forgetting where she filed things in her computer.

"I really just kind of started struggling. Something



Heather M. Snyder, Director of Medical and Scientific Operations for the Alzheimer's Association looks out of a window at the Association's Headquarters in Chicago on June 21, 2013.
Associated Press

wasn't right. I would have to bring my work home, spread it all over the floor, sort it and then try to get it done so that nobody at work would know I was having this difficulty," she said. Driving to familiar places, "I

would think, 'I know where I am, but I don't know how to get out of here.'"

Two neurologists said it was just stress and anxiety, and one prescribed an antidepressant. A third finally diagnosed her with early-onset Alzheimer's disease four years ago. She was 56. The new studies were on "subjective cognitive decline" — when people first notice they are having trouble, even if they test normal on mental ability tests:

— Richard Kryscio at the University of Kentucky led a study of 531 people, average age 73. Those who reported a change in memory or thinking abilities since their last doctor visit were nearly twice as likely to be diagnosed with dementia or mild cognitive impairment about six to nine years later.

— Researchers from the French government's health agency and Brigham and Women's

Hospital in Boston studied 3,861 nurses at least 70 years old who were asked about memory symptoms and periodically tested for them later. About 900 of them carried a gene that raises their risk for dementia. Among the gene carriers, worry about a single memory symptom predicted verbal memory decline on tests over the next six years. In the others without the gene, worry about three or more memory symptoms was linked to memory decline on tests.

— Rebecca Amariglio and other Harvard researchers found that complaints about memory decline matched how much sticky plaque researchers saw on brain scans of 189 people 65 and older. This confirms an earlier study of 131 people that tied memory complaints to these brain plaques, the hallmark of Alzheimer's disease.

— Reports of memory impairment were closely tied to a decline later in the ability to recall events in a study of 2,230 people, average age 80, by researchers at the University of Bonn in Germany.

— Petersen said that a study he and others soon will report shows that complaints about memory predicted who would later develop mild cognitive impairment — what used to be called "pre-Alzheimer's" — in a random sample of 1,500 people in the community near the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

"If you notice a change in your pattern of either yourself or a loved one, seek a health care professional's evaluation," said Heather Snyder, the Alzheimer's Association's director of medical and scientific operations. □



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Review: Pebble watch is a great way to be bugged

PETER SVENSSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — You have a cellphone, maybe a tablet. Sometimes you lug around a laptop. Do you really need one more gadget on you?

Yes, you do. You need a smart watch. At least, that's what I learned after I got the Pebble, a \$150 watch that connects wirelessly to iPhones and Android smartphones to notify you of incoming calls, texts and emails.

The Pebble has a lot of rough edges, but it does a good job of demonstrating the potential of "wearable" computing. Apple has filed patents that demonstrate it's working on a watch, and other "smart" watches are proliferating. The Pebble has impeccable underdog credibility as the brain child of a 26-year-old Canadian entrepreneur who struggled to find money to make it until he posted his project on the fundraising site Kickstarter. There, it was a runaway success, raising more than \$10 million in less than a month from nearly 70,000 friends and strangers.

What's great about the Pebble isn't that it's particularly smart on its own. Considering that it's a watch with the processing power of a cellphone from 2008, it really doesn't do much out of the box. In fact, it does less than many sports watches; you can set alarms, but it doesn't come with a timer.

The watch qualifies as a "smart" device because you can download and install applications, such as a timer. So far, the apps are pretty rudimentary. Apart from the timer, the only app I bothered to install is one that walks you through a popular seven-minute

workout routine.

The Pebble's real use is as an extension of the smartphone, a replacement for the ring signal.

Think about it: how many times have you missed calls and texts because the ringer was off, and you didn't feel the vibration because the phone wasn't on you? Or you forgot to turn the ringer off, and it rang at the wrong time?

myself from the phone. Rather than carrying the bulky thing in my pocket so I could feel it vibrating, I leave it in my bag. At home, I leave it on the charging stand in the foyer.

The Bluetooth wireless connection between the phone and the watch works fine throughout my small New York apartment. The company says the

atically once it dropped. That made the Pebble pretty useless. A colleague tested the watch with her iPhone 4 and found that while it maintained the connection fine when the watch and phone were close by, it wouldn't reconnect automatically if they got separated and then reunited. That was annoying.

With the right phones, the

few lines of every incoming message, or the name and number of the caller, so a glance at the watch reveals if the message is one to ignore or get on quickly. You still have to fish out the phone to reply, though. The watch has only four buttons, and there's no way to type on it.

The watchmaker calls the black-and-white screen "e-ink." That sounds like it's a paper-like display of the kind found on Amazon's monochrome Kindle e-readers, but that's not the case. The Pebble screen is a liquid-crystal display that doesn't need a backlight to be legible in indoor or outdoor light, which helps save battery power. There is a backlight that kicks in whenever a button is pushed, so the watch face is legible in darkness, too.

You can pick from a dozen digital watch faces and flip between them using the watch buttons. Some of them are more amusing than useful, such as one that shows the time in binary numbers. Some are animations of analog faces. One shows 4:20 written out as "four twenty."

What's baffling — and a major downside to the Pebble — is that none of the watch faces have the basic indicators we expect from a smart device: whether it's connected and whether it needs charging. You need at least five button presses to reveal the connection status. One press will get you to a battery indicator, but it will only tell you if you battery is low. It doesn't tell you when it will die.

The battery lasts for about a week, but there's plenty of variability, so I wouldn't be comfortable just setting a reminder to recharge the watch every Monday. □



This photo taken July 16, 2013, shows the Pebble smart watch with customizable faces, this one showing the time written out in New York. The watch functions as an extension of the smartphone, a replacement for the ring signal whenever you get a call, text, email or calendar reminder.

Associated Press

These things used to happen a lot to me. The Pebble put an end to that. When you get a call, text, email or calendar reminder, the Pebble vibrates. You can set it to provide you with Facebook notifications, too. Because it's strapped to your wrist, it's a signal you can't miss, yet it's unnoticeable to anyone else. After a few days, I turned off the cellphone's ringer and vibrating alert — and left them off. The Pebble's vibrating alert was right for every situation.

The Pebble also gives me the freedom to distance

range is 20 to 30 feet (6 to 9 meters). It worked at longer distances in my test, but I wouldn't count on it maintaining a connection throughout a multilevel home.

The Pebble doesn't work flawlessly with every phone, so buyer beware. It worked fine with a Kyocera Torque, a Samsung Galaxy Nexus and a Motorola Razr M. All of them use Google's Android software. With a fourth Android phone, the HTC One, the connection to the watch dropped many times a day, and it wouldn't reconnect auto-

only thing I had to worry about was turning off the connection between the phone and the watch at night, so it wouldn't buzz me in bed with incoming email. Yes, I've actually started wearing the watch to bed. The vibrating alarm wakes me up without disturbing anyone else in the room, and I never have to fumble for the alarm on the nightstand.

If every buzz from the watch sent me scrambling for my phone, the setup would be pretty annoying. But the watch's stamp-sized screen shows the first

Oil hits 16-month high on solid economic data

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of oil shot to a 16-month high Thursday on signs the U.S. job market is improving, although not by enough to prompt the Federal Reserve to pull back on its bond-buying program. Benchmark crude for August delivery rose \$1.56 to finish at \$108.04 a barrel, the highest close since March 19, 2012, on the New York Mercantile

Exchange. Oil has jumped more than \$11 a barrel in July, and pushed up the price of gasoline along with it. Gasoline futures have gained 13 percent since July 1. On Thursday U.S. economic news was good on two fronts: The Labor Department reported a drop in claims for unemployment benefits and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia said manufacturing activity in the

mid-Atlantic region grew in July at the fastest pace in more than two years. Oil markets are also getting support this week from comments by Ben Bernanke that the Fed will support the U.S. economy as long as necessary. The Fed chairman told lawmakers in appearances Wednesday and Thursday that there was no preset schedule for ending the existing stimulus program, raising hopes it

may not end as quickly as some had feared.

In London, Brent crude rose 9 cents to \$108.70 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

In other energy futures trading on Nymex:

— Wholesale gasoline was flat at \$3.11 a gallon.

— Heating oil rose 3 cents to \$3.10 a gallon.

— Natural gas added 18 cents to \$3.81 per 1,000 cubic feet. □

Wireless device additions lift 2Q Verizon profits

PETER SVENSSON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Verizon added more wireless devices than expected to its network in the latest quarter, continuing a strong run for the largest U.S. cellphone carrier.

Verizon Wireless added 941,000 devices to its contract-based plans in the April to June period and boosted service revenues by 8.3 percent from a year ago. Its closest rival, AT&T, is seeing revenue increases of around 4 percent.

Almost all of the gains on the wireless side were due to customers upgrading to higher-priced plans or adding more devices to their plans, as opposed to an influx of new customers. Now that nearly every adult American has a cellphone, easy growth in the wireless industry has ended. Carriers are looking to tablets and other devices to keep revenue rising.

Net income at Verizon Communications Inc. was \$2.25 billion, or 78 cents per share, up 23 percent from a year ago, the company said Thursday. Excluding a pension-related gain, earnings were 73 cents per share. That beat the average estimate of analysts polled by FactSet by a penny. Revenue was \$29.79 billion, up more than 4 percent from a year ago and in line with analyst expectations. Verizon shares fell 49 cents, or 1 percent, to \$50.25 in pre-market trading. The shares hit a 12-year high of \$54.31 on the last day of April. New York-based phone company Verizon Communications owns 55 percent of Verizon Wireless, which means that only that percentage of its profits flow to its bottom line. The rest goes to joint venture partner Vodafone Group PLC, a British cellphone company with wide-ranging international interests. Verizon Communications has a long-standing interest in buying Vodafone out of Verizon Wireless, and analysts expect a deal could be reached later this year. □

Earnings drive Wall Street to record highs

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Earnings gains at major U.S. companies and encouraging economic news pushed U.S. stocks to record levels Thursday.

A drop in claims for unemployment benefits signaled a healthier economy and encouraged investors to buy stocks. The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia said manufacturing in its region grew at the fastest pace in more than two years this month.

Among companies reporting second-quarter earnings, Morgan Stanley was one of the standouts, rising \$1.16, or 4.4 percent, to \$27.70. The New York bank reported sharply higher earnings driven by investment banking gains and said it planned to spend \$500 million buying back its own stock. IBM rose \$3.44,

or 1.8 percent, to \$197.99 after its profit beat analysts' forecasts as software sales grew.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 8.46 points,

average rose 78.02 points, or 0.5 percent, to 15,548.54. The Dow's gains were led by IBM and UnitedHealth Group, which reported better earnings than Wall

Street analysts were expecting. The Nasdaq composite edged up 1.28 points, just

0.04 percent, to 3,611.28. The Nasdaq was held back by weak earnings reports from several major technology companies.

Energy companies rose after the price of oil shot up to a 16-month high on signs that the economy is improving. The stock market is back at record levels after pulling back in June amid concerns that the Fed was poised to reduce its stimulus program. The S&P 500 has gained 5.2 percent this month and is up 18.5 percent for the year, putting it on track to log its best annual performance since 2009, when it rose 23.5 percent.

The Federal Reserve's \$85 billion of monthly bond purchases, intended to hold down long-term interest rates, has been a major factor supporting the rally in stocks. □



The New York Stock Exchange is shown, Thursday, July 18, 2013 in New York. The stock market closed with gains again Thursday continuing a scorching run in July.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

or 0.5 percent, to 1,689.37. The index has gained for 10 of the last 11 days.

The Dow Jones industrial

Street analysts were expecting.

The Nasdaq composite edged up 1.28 points, just

Philip Morris Int'l 2Q profit falls lower sales

M. FELBERBAUM

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)

— Philip Morris International's second-quarter profit fell about 8 percent as it shipped fewer cigarettes, sending company shares down in premarket trading Thursday. The company, which fell short of Wall Street expectations, also lowered its full-year guidance due to unfavorable foreign exchange rates, which also weighed on quarterly results. Philip Morris International sells Marlboro and other cigarette brands outside of the U.S.,

so its results reflect smoking trends abroad. It's the world's second-biggest cigarette seller behind state-controlled China National Tobacco Corp.

The cigarette maker reported earnings of \$2.12 billion, or \$1.30 per share, in the quarter ended June 30, down from \$2.32 billion, or \$1.36 per share, a year ago.

Excluding excise taxes, revenue fell 2.5 percent to \$7.9 billion despite higher prices. Costs to make and sell cigarettes rose more than one percent to \$2.7 billion.

Analysts polled by FactSet had expected \$1.41 per share on revenue of \$8.17 billion. Its shares fell \$2.30, or 2.5 percent, to \$87.50 in premarket trading.

Cigarette shipments fell about 4 percent to 228.9 billion cigarettes as it saw volume declines in all of its regions. Total Marlboro volumes fell nearly 6 percent to 72.4 billion cigarettes.

Still, the company gained share in key markets including France, Germany, Indonesia, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Because it does all its business overseas, the com-

pany also has to navigate changes in currency values. A stronger dollar cuts into revenue generated overseas when it's translated back into dollars.

Philip Morris International Inc., based in New York and Switzerland, cut its profit guidance for the year because of recent changes in foreign exchange rates. It now expects \$5.43 to \$5.53 per share, versus \$5.17 per share in 2012. The forecast includes a one-year \$300 million cost-saving target and planned share buybacks of \$6 billion for 2013. □

Morgan Stanley's 2Q earns soaring on buy back plan, investment banking, wealth management

C. REXRODE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Morgan Stanley's second-quarter earnings and revenue jumped, fueled by gains in investment banking and wealth management.

The New York bank also announced Thursday that it would buy back up to \$500 million of its own shares, news that surprised investors and helped boost the stock 5 percent in late morning trading. When companies buy their own stock, it's a sign that they think the price will go higher.

The bank also finished buying the retail brokerage firm Smith Barney from Citigroup, a yearslong process that has been central to CEO James Gorman's plan

lion a year earlier.

That worked out to 45 cents a share after stripping out the gain and a charge for the purchase of Smith Barney. Financial analysts polled by FactSet had expected 43 cents. Analysts' expectations generally strip out one-time items.

Revenue totaled \$8.3 billion before the accounting gain, up 26 percent from a year earlier. That also beat the \$7.9 billion that analysts had expected.

Revenue in the investment bank jumped 40 percent after excluding the accounting gain. The bank traded more stocks on behalf of clients, underwrote more stock and bond offerings and advised more companies on strategy. Revenue from selling and

the wealth management unit, which advises small and medium-sized businesses and wealthy individuals.

Gorman has been trying to pump up wealth management, most notably through the purchase of Smith Barney. That deal started in 2009 when Gorman was looking to build up the company's more stable brokerage unit after Morgan Stanley teetered in the financial crisis. The bank has steadily increased its stake in Smith Barney and it gained full ownership last month.

Besides steadier income, the retail brokerage is meant to give Morgan Stanley access to deposits, which helps it fund lending and other initiatives. Gor-



Morgan Stanley CEO James Gorman is interviewed on the Fox Business Network, in New York. Fresh off closing its purchase of brokerage firm Smith Barney from Citigroup, a yearslong process that has been central to Gorman's plan to reshape Morgan Stanley, the New York bank said Thursday, July 18, 2013, that it will buy back up to \$500 million of its own shares, news that surprised investors and helped boost the share price by 4 percent.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

to reshape Morgan Stanley. He wants the bank to rely on the steady gains of managing people's money, rather than the spectacular profits — and spectacular losses — of riskier investment bank activities. Morgan Stanley earned \$898 million in the quarter after excluding the benefit of an accounting gain. It was a leap from \$337 mil-

trading bonds for clients, a unit where Morgan Stanley's performance has been uneven, also improved.

Other banks have reported strong results in investment banking, helped by an all-time high in stocks in late May that drew investors and companies to the market.

Revenue rose 10 percent in

man has emphasized mortgages and other loans as a way to expand services to wealth management clients. Last year, the wealth management unit brought in more revenue than the investment bank, a significant shift from previous years. In 2008, the investment bank made up two-thirds of the company's revenue. □

2 Divergent Roads For Dell

The Associated Press

Dell Inc. has delayed Thursday's vote on founder Michael Dell's plan to take the computer maker private. That's a sign the board needs more time to rally support. Activist investor Carl Icahn and the Southeastern Asset Management fund, which own 13 percent of the company combined, have made a competing proposal. Here's a closer look at the two plans:

MICHAEL DELL

About the offer: The \$24.4 billion buyout offer, at \$13.65 per share, would take the company private. Michael Dell, the CEO and the largest shareholder, is throwing in all of his stock and \$750 million of his \$15 billion fortune to help finance the sale to a group led by investment firm Silver Lake. Dell's stock-and-cash contributions to the deal are valued at about \$4.5 billion. The plan calls for paying for most of this through loans, including \$2 billion from long-time Dell partner Microsoft Corp.

If it succeeds: Michael Dell is hoping to evolve the company into a more diversified seller of technology services, business software and high-end computers — much the way IBM Corp. had successfully transformed itself in the 1990s. He believes he has a better chance of turning the company around in the long run if it didn't have to worry about Wall Street's quarter-to-quarter expectations.

Criticisms: Some big investors have signaled opposition to the bid. Icahn believes the offer undervalues the company's long-term prospects and gives Michael Dell and his backers an unfair opportunity to profit from a turnaround. The deal would saddle Dell with more than \$15 billion in debt, which could raise doubts about its financial stability among its risk-averse corporate customers.

The status: The plan has the backing of Dell's board. Because of an agreement that Michael Dell wouldn't cast his shares, which represent about 16 percent of the company's stock, the board needs the support of slightly more than 42 percent of Dell's outstanding stock. Shareholders representing at least 20 percent of the votes were known to be in opposition. Although the company hasn't disclosed the current vote tally, the delay in formally recording the vote suggests it is short of what's needed.

The vote has been rescheduled for next Wednesday at a meeting to take place at 6 p.m. EDT (2200 GMT) at the company's headquarters in Round Rock, Texas. The vote is open to shareholders of record on June 3, the same as before. With the delay, the board can try to sway some of the opposing shareholders, possibly if the group sweetens its bid. It can also try to get votes from those who hadn't cast votes by Thursday's meeting.

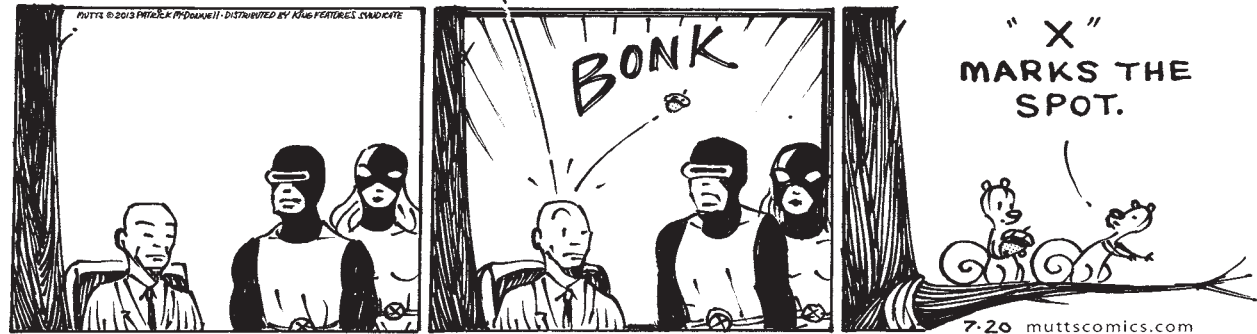
CARL ICAHN

About the offer: Icahn and Southeastern Asset have proposed that the company buy back 1.1 billion shares at \$14 each. They added another element last week that would give stockholders warrants to buy additional shares. Icahn has valued his plan at \$15.50 to \$18 per share. That plan calls for rewarding shareholders with some cash now, but leaving about a third of the shares outstanding for shareholders to benefit from a successful turnaround.

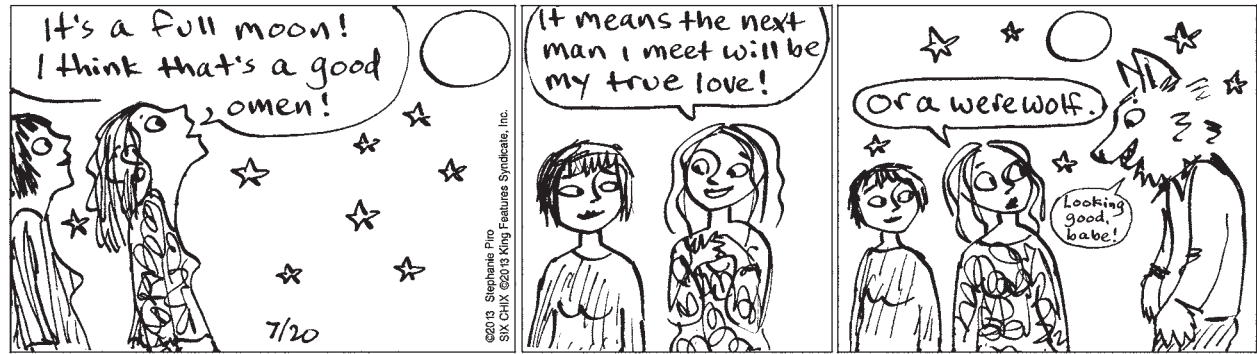
If it succeeds: Icahn and Southeastern want to replace the Dell board with their own slate of candidates and put their plan in effect. Icahn plans to oust Michael Dell as CEO, but hasn't said whom he has in mind to run the company. Criticisms: A special committee of Dell's board calls the plan risky and short on details. One shareholder-advisory firm, Glass, Lewis & Co., says the certainty of a cash payout under the Michael Dell plan is better than the risk in continuing to hold Dell shares.

The status: No vote has been scheduled. Instead, Icahn would have to replace enough board members with his own candidates at Dell's annual shareholders meeting, which hasn't been scheduled yet. □

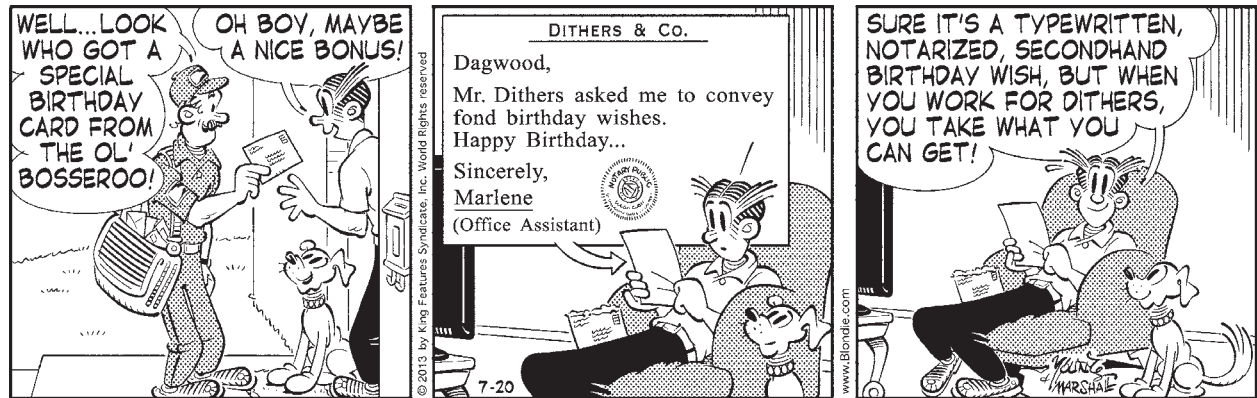
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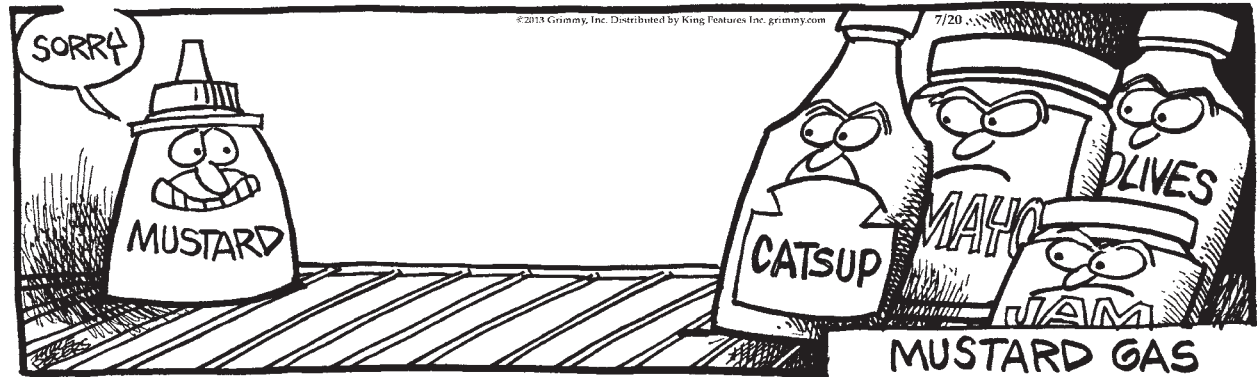
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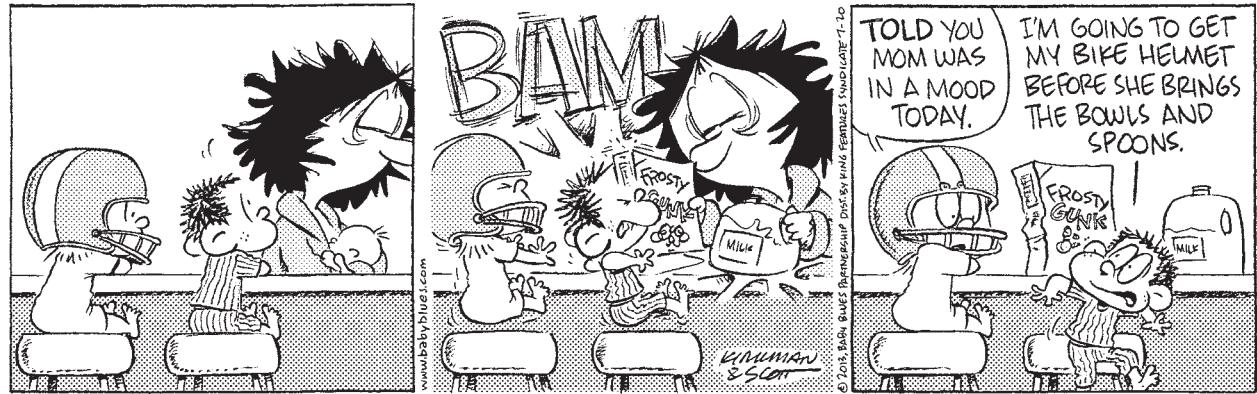
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			9	2			
	1					3	
		8	3	7	4		
7		3			8		2
6		4			1		7
		7	6	4	2		
	5					7	
			7	1			

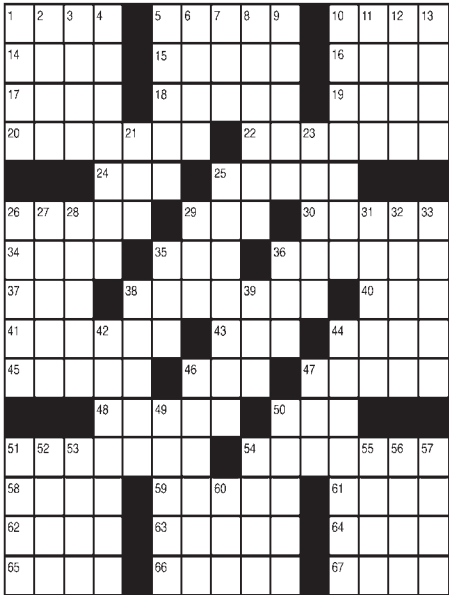
Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 7/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6	5	8	1	3	4	9	7	2
7	1	4	5	9	2	3	6	8
9	3	2	7	6	8	4	5	1
8	4	1	6	2	5	7	3	9
2	6	9	8	7	3	5	1	4
5	7	3	9	4	1	2	8	6
3	8	5	4	1	9	6	2	7
4	2	7	3	8	6	1	9	5
1	9	6	2	5	7	8	4	3

ACROSS

- 1 Divisions of a dramatic play
- 5 Quickly
- 10 "Been there, done "
- 14 Indigo or azure
- 15 More ancient
- 16 Make angry
- 17 Maize
- 18 _ gun; traffic cop's device
- 19 Lofty poems
- 20 Powerful ruling family
- 22 Most cushiony
- 24 Pekoe or oolong
- 25 _ badge; Scout's award
- 26 Pago Pago, American _
- 29 Auction offer
- 30 Goes first
- 34 Fib teller
- 35 Forbid
- 36 Antenna
- 37 Burro
- 38 Depresses
- 40 Parched
- 41 Smudge; spot
- 43 Made a lap
- 44 Bread loaf end
- 45 Spanish mister
- 46 That woman
- 47 Companion
- 48 Fortuneteller's deck of cards
- 50 Flower garden
- 51 Idealist
- 54 Promised one's commitment
- 58 Actor James _ Jones
- 59 Loosen
- 61 Reason to wed
- 62 Malicious
- 63 Makes airtight
- 64 Facial features
- 65 Declare untrue
- 66 Margins
- 67 Wet and chilly



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 7/20/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

TECH	STRAY	SLIM
OAHU	PEACE	PALE
GRAB	RACETRACKS	
ALL	HICK	AREAS
	LAUGH	PIE
ELECTS	HINDER	
CENTS	BLUES	MUD
HOGS	WOODED	MALE
ONE	SEATS	LINEN
	ERRANT	OUTCRY
	AFT	TUTTI
ADORE	RISE	PIG
GOVERNMENT	SARA	
EVES	BADGE	ATOP
DENT	CEDED	YENS

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- 42 Completely
- 44 Crowded together
- 46 Antlered
- 47 Hive resident
- 49 Find a new purpose for
- 50 "God _ America"
- 51 Owner's paper
- 52 Rant and _; carry on
- 53 Moran or Gray
- 54 Stack
- 55 Spanish artist
- 56 Like 2, 4 and 6
- 57 Writing table
- 60 Price label

New book lets women 'Kiss and Tell' intimate details of sex life

Nicole Villalpando

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

AUSTIN, Texas -- The first thing Anne Rodgers wants every woman who reads her book about sex to know is that she is normal. For "Kiss and Tell: Secrets of Sexual Desire from Women 15 to 97" (Soft Spot Press, \$18.95), Rodgers surveyed 1,300 women in South Florida about what stimulates desire, what they think about during sex and what they would not want to do. She then conducted in-person interviews of 100 of the respondents and they shared the most intimate details of their lives. Gynecologist Maureen Whelihan, who co-authored the book, provides the biological reasons behind some of the answers.

Rodgers, a former Austin American-Statesman editor, met Whelihan while working at the Palm Beach Post and reporting about mature women's issues. She found Whelihan unique in that she asked her patients not just about whether they are sexually active but also how they felt about their sex life. Whelihan's patients became the survey takers and interviewees.

Rodgers breaks the book down by decades, first exploring what the teens have experienced and ending with what the 90-year-olds think about sex now and throughout their lives. She tried to find women of diverse backgrounds. Most are straight, but some are lesbians or have had relationships with women in the past. Some have been in the swinger lifestyle, and one has been an escort. Some have been sexually abused. The women are married,

divorced, never married and widowed. Their racial backgrounds also vary. She wanted readers to be able to find themselves in the book, especially in women in their current decade.

The book is full of honest details about preferred positions, methods, number of lovers, etc. "It was eye-opening," Rodgers says. "It was a blast. It was so fun because the women I interviewed ... were so candid, so compelling, so willing to give me the intimate details of their lives. It was so fascinating for me." She wrote the book as if the women were characters in a novel, she says. Each of the women got to choose her alias, and she could control what went into the book and what got left out. Among one of the biggest surprises for Rodgers was why women decided to have sex for the first time. Teens and women in their 20s didn't talk about lust or desire, unlike the women in their 80s and 90s. Instead, these younger women talked about not wanting to go into high school a virgin, or feeling like they had dated their boyfriend for six months and it was the natural progression.

"They were not having their bodies telling them they are ready," she says. Instead, it's more societal and cultural pressure. Also surprising was the women in their 80s and 90s who admitted to having had very active sex lives before marriage. "Some were very adventurous," she says. They were breaking down the stereotypes of their age. The myth that women that age are no longer sexually active also was dispelled. □

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Astronaut with flooded helmet felt like goldfish

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Now he knows what it's like to be a goldfish in a fishbowl.

Two days after his helmet flooded during a spacewalk, astronaut Luca Parmitano relived the experience Thursday, describing how water kept trickling into his helmet until big globs covered his eyes, then his nose. It was hard to see, he said, and he could not hear.

"For a couple of minutes there, maybe more than a couple of minutes,

I experienced what it's like to be a goldfish in a fishbowl — from the point of view of the goldfish," Parmitano said in a TV interview from the International Space Station.

Parmitano said he used his memory to make his way back into the space station.

His spacewalking partner, Christopher Cassidy, was a big help.

The 36-year-old Italian Air Force officer said he was "miserable but OK" as Tuesday's spacewalk came to



In this image from video made available by NASA, astronaut Karen Nyberg assists astronaut Luca Parmitano remove his space suit after the aborted spacewalk aboard the International Space Station on Tuesday, July 16, 2013.

Associated Press

an abrupt end.

"Imagine walking around with your eyes closed in a fishbowl.

Really, that's what was going on ... It's just a very uncomfortable feeling to be with your face underwater for all that time," he said.

Parmitano, a former test pilot, said he was lucky to get back inside so quickly. He figures there was 3 pounds of water floating inside his helmet when his crew-

mates yanked it off; that's nearly a half-gallon.

NASA managers have said Parmitano could have choked or drowned, and praised his calmness during the ordeal.

Parmitano's colleagues grabbed towels to mop his bald head once the 1½-hour spacewalk ended. Some water bubbles escaped and floated away.

The astronauts as well as engineers in Houston are

still trying to figure out what went wrong. Parmitano's drink bag has been ruled out. The only other possibility is the cooling system for his suit.

Parmitano said his long underwear, containing water tubes, appears to be fine.

"I'm sure that they will find both the problem and the solution," Parmitano said.

Parmitano became Italy's first spacewalker last week.

His spacesuit functioned perfectly the first time around.

Tuesday's excursion was a continuation of the maintenance work, none of which was urgent.

The trouble began barely an hour into Spacewalk 2.

Parmitano said he felt cold water on the back of his head. Within a few minutes, he felt it covering his ears.

"The water kept trickling until it completely covered my eyes and my nose," Parmitano said.

The sun was setting as the spacewalkers made their way back, making it harder to maneuver in the darkness.

"All those things sort of

came together at the perfect storm, so to speak, for us to deal with," Cassidy told TV reporters.

Cassidy said the space station crew reviewed the spacewalk procedures in advance and discussed possible emergencies.

"But lo and behold, what happened was not one of those items that we discussed," said Cassidy, 43, a former Navy SEAL.

"My own gut feeling," Cassidy said, "I knew it was time to end it when I saw the water creeping around his communications cap, kind of right by his eyelid. I knew that was a significant amount of water to be in a helmet, and it was time to go in."

Parmitano was low key as he recounted the experience. Once the helmet came off, he said, "that was the end of it."

Spare spacesuits are on board in the event of a space station emergency. NASA wants to be certain the problem is isolated to Parmitano's suit before sending any more astronauts outside. □

Curiosity rover confirms Martian air is mostly CO2

ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Curiosity rover has tasted Mars' air: It's made mostly of carbon dioxide with hints of other gases.

The measurements by the most advanced spacecraft to land on the red planet closely match what the twin Viking landers detected in the late 1970s and what scientists have gleaned from Martian meteorites — rock fragments that fell to Earth.

Mars' atmosphere is overwhelmingly dominated by carbon dioxide, unlike Earth's air, which is a mix of nitrogen and oxygen.

There was a small surprise: Viking found nitrogen to be the second most abundant gas in the Martian air, but Curiosity's measure-

ments revealed a nearly equal abundance of nitrogen and argon, a stable noble gas. Mission scientists are puzzled, but suspect it might have to do with the different tools used to sample the atmosphere.

"It's more or less an interesting observation" but doesn't change the notion that Mars lost most of its original atmosphere to space, transforming the planet into a cold desert, said Paul Mahaffy of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, who is in charge of Curiosity's air sampling experiments.

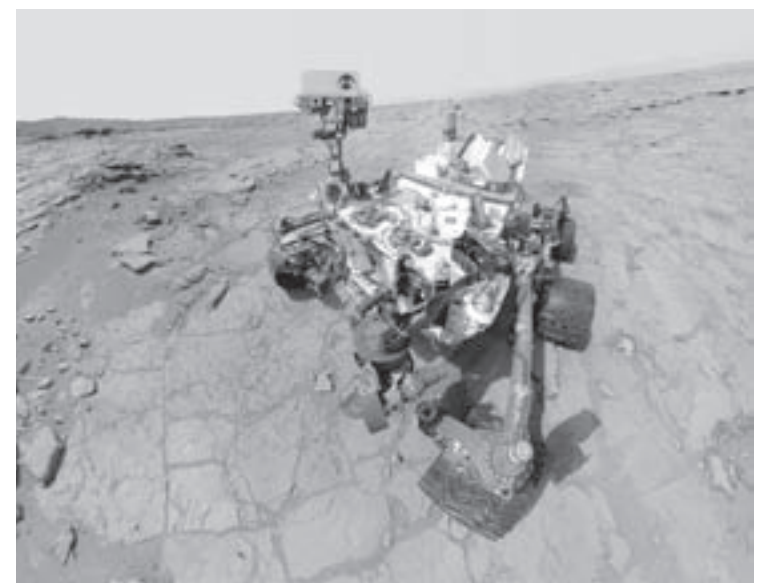
The nuclear-powered, six-wheel rover set down in an ancient crater near the Martian equator almost a year ago. The atmospheric measurements were detailed in two studies ap-

pearing in Friday's issue of the journal Science.

While "there's nothing profoundly different" between what Curiosity found and previous results, the new work is more detailed, said Michael Mumma of Goddard, who is not part of the mission.

Neither study dwelled on the issue of methane gas on Mars. Several years ago, telescopes on Earth detected a surprising and mysterious belch of methane in three regions in the Martian western hemisphere. On Earth, methane is mainly a byproduct of life — from animal digestion and decaying plants. The gas can also be produced by non-biological processes.

Last year, the Curiosity team reported no definitive whiff of methane near



This photo released by NASA shows a self-portrait taken by the NASA rover Curiosity in Gale Crater on Mars.

Associated Press

the landing site. Since then, the rover has taken several more air samples. There are also plans to sniff the atmosphere for methane during the monthslong drive to Mount Sharp, a 3-mile (5-kilometer)-high mountain looming from the crater center.

NASA in the fall is set to launch a Mars-orbiting

spacecraft aimed at solving the methane mystery.

Called Maven, the craft will target the Martian atmosphere. Scientists want to know if it actually exists, determine the abundance and whether that varies by year or location, said mission chief scientist Bruce Jakosky of the University of Colorado. □

Online series 'House of Cards' makes Emmy history

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Netflix's "House of Cards" made Emmy history Thursday with a top drama series nomination, the first time that television's leading awards have recognized a program delivered online as equal in quality to the best that TV has to offer.

The nomination, one of nine nods earned by the political thriller, is a marker in the unfolding revolution in how we receive and watch video entertainment.

Kevin Spacey, the nominated star of the political drama "House of Cards," revealed in its impressive nine bids and role as a groundbreaker. It's "really, in many ways, kind of a new paradigm," he said. "It's just a great, great thing for all of us." A 6-year-old TV academy rules change allows online entries to compete with cable and broadcast programs, but until Thursday online shows popped up only in lower-profile categories.

"It's really groundbreaking," said Ted Sarandos, chief content officer for Netflix, which also got nods for its revival of "Arrested Development."

"It's beyond our most bold



This image released by Netflix shows Kevin Spacey as U.S. Congressman Frank Underwood in a scene from the Netflix original series, "House of Cards."

expectations. We were thinking a single nomination would be a win," he said.

The most Emmy nominations, 17, went to "American Horror Story: Asylum." Close behind was "Game of Thrones" with 16 nods, while "Saturday Night Live" and the Liberace biopic "Behind the Candelabra" earned 15 nominations each, including nods for stars Michael Douglas and Matt Damon.

The bonanza of nominations for "Game of Thrones" is the swords-and-fantasy show's most-ever and includes a best drama series nod and three acting bids, including a supporting nod for Peter Dinklage.

Spacey's "House of Cards" co-star Robin Wright also received an acting bid, along with a number of other primarily big-screen actors who have migrated to TV for powerhouse projects, with Douglas and Da-

mon among them.

Joining "House of Cards" and "Game of Thrones" in the best drama series category are "Breaking Bad," "Downton Abbey," "Mad Men" and last year's winner, "Homeland."

"Mad Men," which last year missed out on the best drama trophy that would have been its record-setting fifth, eclipsing fellow four-time winners "Hill Street Blues," "L.A. Law" and "The West Wing," gets another

shot this year.

The major broadcast networks were shut out of the prestigious category, a repeat of last year and a particular blow with the entry of Netflix's streamed drama. "Boardwalk Empire" was the only show not to return in the category, its spot claimed by "House of Cards." In the comedy series category, nominees are "The Big Bang Theory," "Girls," "Louie," "Modern Family," "Veep" and "30 Rock," recognized for its final season. Another outgoing comedy, "The Office," didn't receive a best series nod.

Another Netflix series, "Arrested Development," didn't earn a best comedy series but scored three nominations, including one for star Jason Bateman. Some pundits thought it might earn online's first best comedy series nod, given that it won a trophy in the category for Fox before the network canceled it.

Joining Spacey in the contest for best drama series actor are Hugh Bonneville of "Downton Abbey"; Jon Hamm of "Mad Men"; Jeff Daniels of "The Newsroom" and Damian Lewis of "Homeland," last year's winner. □

Singer Tina Turner marries longtime beau in Switzerland

JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Legendary rock singer Tina Turner has married her longtime German beau, Erwin Bach, in a Swiss civil ceremony, a local mayor said Thursday. The 73-year-old singer tied the knot at the registry office of her wealthy Zurich-area community with Bach, a 57-year-old music executive, said Markus Ernst, the mayor of Kuesnacht, where Turner owns a lakeside chateau.

Ernst told The Associated Press that the couple, whose relationship began in the 1980s, had a typical civil ceremony several

weeks ago at the registry office, sometime between late June and early July.

The mayor described it as routine, other than some noise from construction outside the town building. "It was really completely normal, just like anybody else," he said. "This Sunday is the wedding celebration. It's a private celebration they are having, and everybody says it's at their home, and most probably that's the case."

"What's it like having the 'Queen of Rock' as a neighbor?"

"Of course she's most probably the best known inhabitant of our com-

munity," said Ernst, who described the eight-time Grammy-winner as someone who enjoys Switzerland's famous discretion toward celebrities. Her first marriage was to her former musical partner, Ike Turner, whom she divorced and famously wrote about in her autobiography-turned-movie. Turner, who was born Anna Mae Bullock in Nutbush, Tennessee, became a Swiss citizen earlier this year, after living in her Chateau Algonquin along Lake Zurich for nearly two decades. After leaving her abusive first husband, Turner became best known as a hard-touring solo per-



A Thursday, May 31, 2012 photo from files showing U.S. singer actress Tina Turner arriving for the Giorgio Armani fashion show held in Beijing.

Associated Press

former for her album "Private Dancer" and hits like "What's Love Got To Do With It?"

Swiss newspaper Schweiz am Sonntag reported that pop stars David Bowie and Sade and talk show impres-

sario Oprah Winfrey were among the more than 120 guests who were invited for the private ceremony at the chateau and would be taking up weekend residence at some of Zurich's finest luxury hotels. □

'Red' and 'RIPD' end up in a game of chicken

JOHN ANDERSON

For The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Scheduling the release of a summer movie isn't exactly a science. It clearly isn't an art, either. It's more akin to a contact sport:

Seize the advantageous position, sustain as little damage as possible, and score.

All of which makes this weekend's opening of both "Red 2" and "R.I.P.D." a little like sacking your own quarterback. Both films are action-thrillers. Both are about over-age law enforcers (in "R.I.P.D.," some are so old, they're dead). And both make a virtue of their, shall we say, mature stars.

Those stars include Bruce Willis (58), Anthony Hopkins (75), John Malkovich (59) and Helen Mirren (67) in "Red 2" and Jeff Bridges (63) and Kevin Bacon (55) in "R.I.P.D.," which, by the way, stands for "Rest in Peace Department."

It may not make a huge difference at the box office, but both films also feature the less-than-prolific Mary-Louise Parker, who has a solid base among discriminating male viewers but is better known for her work in cable TV's "Weeds."

Add to all this the fact that Robert Schwentke, the director of Universal's "R.I.P.D.," had directed



This film publicity image released by Universal Pictures shows Jeff Bridges, left, and Ryan Reynolds in a scene from "R.I.P.D." The film will be released nationwide on Friday, July 19.

Associated Press



This film publicity image released by Summit Entertainment shows Helen Mirren in a scene from "Red 2." The film will be released nationwide on Friday, July 19.

Associated Press

the original "Red" of 2010 from Summit Entertainment and for whatever reason (Schwentke didn't want to talk about it) lost the sequel to director Dean Parisot.

True, "R.I.P.D." pairs Bridges with 36-year-old former Sexiest Man Alive Ryan Reynolds, but as summer

films go, the movies share notable audience overlap — and on two fronts, says box office analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

"These films skew older due to the presence of Jeff Bridges in "R.I.P.D." and the older cast of "Red 2," he said. "And the bigger simi-

larity is that they are both action crime comedies."

Assuming there's no ill will involved, a lot of coincidences are in play here, said distribution consultant Richard Abramowitz, who teaches film production at New York University and runs the film company Abramorama. "It seems like too big a mistake to be a mistake."

But the "Red 2"/"R.I.P.D." collision may simply be a symptom of the state of Hollywood. There have been very few weekends since May that haven't been dominated by a big-budget, major-studio release — a so-called "tent-pole" picture. There was "Iron Man 3" on May 2, "The Great Gatsby" on May 10, "Star Trek Into Darkness" on May 15, "Fast & Furious 6" on May 24, "After Earth" on May 31 and so on.

Tellingly, when studios chose to expand a debut weekend with a weekday opening — "Iron Man 3" was on a Thursday; "Star Trek" was on a Wednesday — a rash of movies seemed to rush in to fill the Friday void. In fact, the Fridays following "IM3" and "STID" were among the more crowded of the summer, with 15 and 11 openings, respectively.

But the idea that studios have that kind of flexibility in picking a release date is really a fallacy: Releases are set as early as possible, sometimes even during pre-production, and when a film of a certain stature grabs a date, everyone else starts jockeying for position. "Where were they going to go?" asked Greg Laemmle, of the eponymous Los Angeles-based theater chain, referring to "Red 2" and "R.I.P.D."

"You've got 'Pacific Rim' on July 11, 'Wolverine' in July 26. It may well be there was no place else to go, and there's so much in the pipeline that they'd be pushed right out of the summer," Laemmle said.

So if the studios behind "Reds 2" and "R.I.P.D." were trying to put their movies into the summer season, this was probably the first

weekend they could find without a gigantic, globally recognized title in place.

"R.I.P.D." had already announced a July 19th release when Summit parent Lionsgate decided to move "Red 2" onto that same date, said Universal spokeswoman Kori Bernards. "You'll have to ask them what that was about."

Lionsgate had no comment for this story, but insiders say both Lionsgate and Universal seem to have realized their movies had a better chance against each other, despite having to share the same older audience, than against a summer blockbuster like next weekend's "Wolverine," for instance. And neither one of the films was big enough to scare the other off the date.

The result is a faceoff between two pictures going for the same demographic, and in a way, that's too bad, especially for audiences looking for a break from robots, spacemen and Johnny Depp wearing a dead crow on his head.

"Any studio that targets the under-served adult audience is smart," said Anne Thompson, who writes Thompson on Hollywood for Indiewire.

So we have two studios well aware of that and their two movies playing chicken in a game where it's very expensive to blink.

"It's very, very rare that a release date gets postponed," said Robert Bella, who has supervised post-production on such films as "Lincoln," "War Horse" and "The Help." "Anything can be done if you have enough time and money, of course, but those release dates get set as far in advance as possible and it's always a mad dash the closer you get to the target date," he said.

"Some movies can tell you a year from now, or two years, when they're going to open, and then everyone else starts reacting," Bella continued. "I bet it won't be long before the next 'Star Wars' announces its date." □

Journalist who got docs from Snowden has book deal

NEW YORK (AP) — The reporter central to revealing the massive U.S. government surveillance efforts has a book deal.

The Guardian's Glenn Greenwald has signed with Metropolitan Books, an imprint of Macmillan, for a book to be published in March. Metropolitan announced Thursday that the book would include additional material on government operations and its "extraordinary cooperation" with private companies.

Greenwald is a journalist



Journalist Glenn Greenwald speaks during an interview with the Associated Press in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, July 14, 2013.

Associated Press

and commentator for the Guardian whose reports have been based on documents leaked by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden. Greenwald has written three books in which he argues the government trampled on personal rights in the name of national security.

Another reporter who has broken news based on documents from Snowden, Barton Gellman of The Washington Post, has a book deal with an imprint of Penguin Group (USA). □

Men On The Threshold



DAVID BROOKS
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As every discerning person knows, "The Searchers" is the greatest movie ever made. It is loosely based on the real story of Cynthia Ann Parker, who was abducted from her East Texas home in 1836 when she was 9 years old by Comanche raiders, who then raised her and kept her for 24 years.

John Ford's 1956 movie focuses not on the abducted girl but on her uncle and adopted brother, who, in that telling, spend seven years tracking her and her abductors down.

The center of the movie is Ethan Edwards, played by John Wayne. He is as morally ambiguous a figure as movies can produce, at once brave, loyal, caring and honest, but also vengeful, hateful, dangerous and tainted by racism.

As Glenn Frankel notes in "The Searchers," his recent book on the movie, Ethan spends much of the film in pursuit of an old-fashioned honor killing. At least at first, he doesn't want to rescue his niece; he wants to find her and kill her to enforce his brand of racial and sexual purity. Classics can be interpreted in different ways. These days, "The Searchers" can be profitably seen as a story about men who are caught on the wrong side of a historical transition.

The movie's West was a wild, lawless place, requiring a certain sort of person to tame it. As the University of Virginia literary critic Paul Cantor has pointed out, that person had prepolitical virtues, a willingness to seek revenge, to mete out justice on his own. That kind of person, the hero of most Westerns, is hard, confrontational, raw and tough to control.

But, as this sort of classic Western hero tames the West, he makes himself obsolete. Once the western towns have been pacified, there's no need for his capacity for violence, nor his righteous fury.

As Cantor notes, "The Searchers" is about this moment of transition. Civilization is coming. New sorts of people are bringing education, refinement, marriage and institutionalized justice. Crimes are no longer to be punished by the righteous gunfighter but by law.

Ethan Edwards made this world possible, but he is unfit to live in it. At the end of the movie, after

seven years of effort, he brings the abducted young woman home. The girl is ushered inside, but, in one of the iconic images in Hollywood history, Edwards can't cross the threshold. Because he is tainted by violence, he can't be part of domestic joy he made possible. He is framed by the doorway and eventually walks away.

That image of the man outside the doorway is germane today, in a different and even more tragic manner. Over the past few decades, millions of men have been caught on the wrong side of a historic transition, unable to cross the threshold into the new economy.

Their plight is captured in the labor statistics. Male labor force participation has been in steady decline for generations. In addition, as Floyd Norris noted in The Times on Saturday, all the private sector jobs lost by women during the Great Recession have been recaptured, but men still have a long way to go.

In 1954, 96 percent of American men between 25 and 54 years old worked. Today, 80 percent do. One-fifth of men in their prime working ages are out of the labor force.

As Nicholas Eberstadt of the American Enterprise Institute has put it, "The situation here is basically a disaster, a crisis far worse than most commentators and policymakers seem to recognize, and with no clear prospects for appreciable improvement over the near-term horizon."

The definitive explanation for this catastrophe has yet to be written. Some of the problem clearly has to do with changes in family structure.

Work by David Autor of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology suggests that men raised in fatherless homes, without as many immediate masculine role models, do worse in the labor force. Some of the problem probably has to do between a mismatch between boy culture and school culture, especially in the early years.

But, surely, there has been some ineffable shift in the definition of dignity. Many men were raised with a certain image of male dignity, which emphasized autonomy, reticence, ruggedness, invulnerability and the competitive virtues. Now, thanks to a communications economy, they find themselves in a world that values expressiveness, interpersonal ease, vulnerability and the cooperative virtues.

Surely, part of the situation is that many men simply do not want to put themselves in positions they find humiliating. A high school student doesn't want to persist in a school where he feels looked down on.

A guy in his 50s doesn't want to find work in a place where he'll be told what to do by savvy young things.

There are millions of men on the threshold.

They can see through the doorway to what's inside. But they're unable or unwilling to come across. □



D.C.'S Pit Of Despair



FRANK BRUNI
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There are countless oddities in the way Washington works, but few as mystifying as lawmakers' definition of the word "friend." In other, saner walks of life, it means someone you yearn to see. In the Senate, it can also mean someone you yearn to see under the wheels of your sport utility vehicle, writhing in agony and wheezing surrender.

I assume this was the usage that Harry Reid, the Democratic majority leader, had in mind when he called Mitch McConnell, the Republican minority leader, "my friend" during a closely watched speech on Monday. After all, everything else about Reid's remarks and the furious days leading up to them reflected a state of play between the two parties, and the two men, that no conventional dictionary would ever describe as amicable.

Right now, "the world's greatest deliberative body," as the Senate has been called, looks a whole lot more like the set of "The Jerry Springer Show." Is it any wonder that so many prominent pols are taking a pass on membership in the club? The one who most recently did so was Brian Schweitzer, the former governor of Montana, who announced his

decision not to run for the Senate over the weekend.

"I kicked the tires," Schweitzer, a Democrat, told The Associated Press, meaning he had mulled the idea. "I walked to the edge and looked over." And saw what? A pit of bottomless despair? Ted Cruz ranting into the wee hours? Rand Paul filibustering like there's no tomorrow?

Schweitzer had previously commented, "I am not goofy enough to be in the House, and I'm not senile enough to be in the Senate." In years past, he might have been referring to the advanced age of many senators. In our grim present, he seemed to be saying that a person must be of bedraggled mind to court an assignment so acrimonious.

As potential newcomers say no, old-timers say goodbye, in numbers greater than before. Olympia Snowe, Ben Nelson, Kay Bailey Hutchison and Kent Conrad, among other senators, retired at the end of 2012.

Carl Levin, Max Baucus, Tom Harkin, Tim Johnson, Mike Johanns and Saxby Chambliss have all announced that they won't seek re-election in 2014. The reasons vary, but the take-away is clear. The Senate doesn't exert the pull it once did.

It's an arena of petty gamesmanship and pointless gridlock, which are engines of Reid's understandable ire and reasons he's pushing a reconsideration of filibuster rules this week. The current Republican minority has been an epically obstructionist one.

On top of which, the gerrymandering of House districts means that when the Senate indeed manages to get something accomplished, the legislation is frequently "torn apart, ignored completely or dead on arrival" on the other side of the Capitol, said Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat who was elected to the Senate in 2010 and used words like "frustrating" and "disheartening" to describe his experience since. In the Senate these

days, the blush fades quickly from the rose.

Coons told me that while most of his Republican colleagues are "personable and collegial," the exceptions hold inordinate sway, and that much of the time the chamber "is either empty of any senators or one is giving a partisan screed to the cameras only." Thanks to the voracious appetite of blogs and cable news and to all journalists' tropism toward tantrums, the screed givers get more attention than the worker bees.

As for respect, well, that's gone the way of the dodo. You could at this point fill an entire book with pundits' and politicians' efforts at witty smiles and metaphors for how low Americans' opinion of Congress has sunk.

Referring to the oath of office that every lawmaker takes, Bob Kerrey said to me, "The moment your hand comes off the Bible, you're in a profession where the approval rating is down there with waterboarding." I told him that he vastly underestimated the esteem for waterboarding.

Kerrey, a Democrat, served Nebraska in the Senate from 1989 to 2001. In 2012 he ran again (and lost). I asked him why he'd bothered.

He said that just as our country needs people "to go down in a coal mine," we need people to brave the toxic realms of Congress.

Coal mining and the Senate in one breath: that says it all.

If the Senate is this troubled, what hope exists for the federal government all in all? For its ability to solve problems, its appeal to high-minded individuals?

On Monday, in a voice of surprising sadness, Reid declared the Senate "broken." He looked weary, beaten down: a mirror of Americans, whose faith in Washington has ebbed. When we look toward the Potomac, we see posturing in lieu of cooperation, tribalism in place of collaboration. And that's not what friends are for. □

A Transit Hub That Might Prove To Be The Grandest

DAVID W. DUNLAP

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK - How much did it cost to build Grand Central Terminal?

Most people cannot answer that question (\$80 million, as it happens), in part because it no longer seems very salient. Whatever the price, New York received an enduring landmark in exchange, a portal to the city that has never lost its power to inspire awe.

If the World Trade Center Transportation Hub is ever to emerge from under the shadow of its \$3.94 billion price tag (double Grand Central's, adjusted for inflation),

it will have to do more than move PATH commuters efficiently. It will have to lift hearts.

Perhaps it can.

A visit to the monumental station Wednesday left the impression that its main transit hall might be the most hopeful element at the trade center complex when it opens in 2015.

Now full of light and air, it will one day be full of people, movement and life, as well. It could become a destination in its own right, even for those who are not among the 200,000 or so commuters traveling daily to and from New Jersey.

The transportation hub and retail concourses will be "the only facilities on site that are completely accessible to the public," said a report by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which is building the hub. By contrast, visitors to the office towers, the National September 11 Memorial & Museum and the 1 World Trade Center observatory will be subject to tight scrutiny.

In the end, that might be the most astonishing feature of the hub; that a structure of such colossal proportions should be devoted to unobstructed public use. The main transit hall is 365 feet long - a block and a half - making it 90 feet longer than the main concourse of Grand Central Terminal. It is 115 feet wide, or just 5 feet narrower than the Grand

Central concourse. It takes a half minute to walk from one side to the other.

The transit hall will soar 160 feet, from the floor to the apogee of its arched, ribbed steel-and-glass canopy. That is 35 feet higher than the ceiling at Grand Central.

The architect of the hub, Santiago Calatrava of Spain, came to New Yorkers' attention in 1992. He proposed completing the unfinished transept of the Cathedral Church of

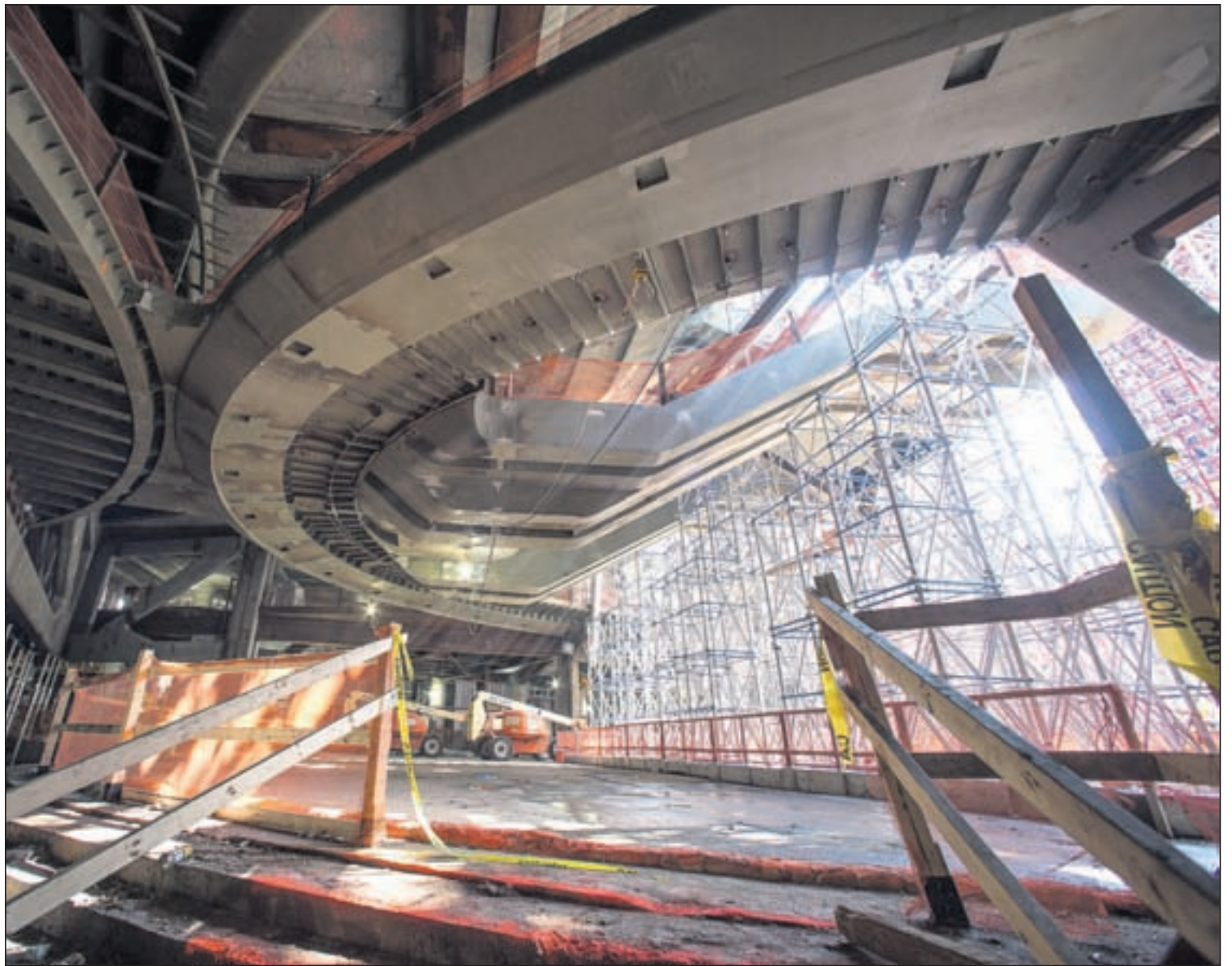
Temple of the Holy Family, the transportation hub has left a lot of people wondering when construction would ever be finished, and at what cost. When the original design was unveiled in 2004, the project was supposed to cost \$2 billion and take five years to finish. The canopy was given two counterposed structural wings that reminded many viewers of a bird in flight, as Calatrava intended. The sides of the canopy were to

ribs as originally planned. By 2006, it was clear that officials of the memorial foundation, Mayor Michael Bloomberg among them, regarded Calatrava's mezzanine skylights as an intrusion on their plaza.

As the cost of material and labor rose, the Port Authority conceded in 2007 that the hub's price tag might reach \$3.4 billion. The operable wings were eliminated as a cost-cutting measure, as was the plan for a column-free mezzanine. But added

Hurricane Sandy.

Surge waters during the storm reached knee level on the PATH passenger platforms, said Steven Plate, the director of World Trade Center construction at the Port Authority. The entire trade center site was flooded with about 125 million gallons of water. Newly installed emergency electrical equipment was damaged beyond repair. Tracks were washed out. Four or five new escalators were ruined. Ductwork had



The PATH station at the World Trade Center Transportation Hub, in New York, July 17, 2013. The World Trade Center Transportation Hub, with a \$3.94 billion price tag, is to open in 2015.

(Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)

St. John the Divine with bold, branching forms that conjured the work of Antonio Gaudí, the Catalan architect whose exuberant designs transformed Barcelona, Spain.

For the PATH terminal, Calatrava has fashioned a sinuously organic space that looks more and more like a modernist version of Gaudí as it takes form.

And like Gaudí's Expiatory

be retractable, so the roof could open in fine weather. The underground mezzanine leading to the passenger platforms was to be a column-free expanse, naturally illuminated by skylights set into the memorial plaza above.

In 2005, Calatrava's ethereal bird put on weight, after the Port Authority insisted on reinforcing the canopy with twice as many

expenses and difficulties were imposed by the use of custom steel elements made by Urssa and Horta Coslada, Spanish fabricators with experience working on Calatrava's projects.

The authority said in its 2012 annual report that the hub might end up costing as much as \$3.995 billion. This does not include the price of recovering from

to be replaced.

All told, an estimated \$300 million to \$400 million in damage was done to the hub. But this is not calculated as a construction expense, Plate said, because it is being covered by insurance and by federal grants.

"The dollar amount was neutral," Plate added, undoubtedly glad that he could. □